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STORY of  
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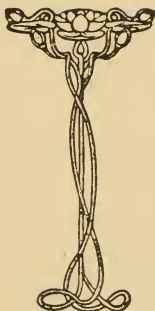








# The Story of Minnesota



By GRACE EMERY

—AND—

RHODA J. EMERY

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## PREFACE

This book is an attempt to interest the children of Minnesota in the history of their own great state by presenting to them a series of her stories arranged in a continuous narrative. For our material, we are indebted to the valuable collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, including histories of Minnesota by Folwell, Flandreau, Niell, Folsom, Castle, Upham, Holcombe and Winchell.

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# Story of Minnesota

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## CHAPTER I

### GEOGRAPHY OF THE STATE

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**NAME**            *Minnesota* is an Indian name meaning "turbid-water." This name was originally given to the Minnesota River and, in 1849, it was applied by Congress to the newly organized territory. When the state was admitted in 1858, the name was retained.

**SIZE**            Minnesota is the tenth state of the Union in size. Its combined land and water surface is 87,196 square miles, including that part of Lake Superior within the state. The land surface alone is 80,858 square miles.

The least width (from Stillwater, near the mouth of the St. Croix River, westward to the Dakota boundary) is



about 180 miles; while the greatest width, which is in the northern part of the state, is about 350 miles. The greatest length from north to south including the projection into Lake of the Woods, is 408 miles.

**LOCATION** The "North Star State" lies between 43° 30' and 49° 23' north latitude. The latitude of Duluth is about that of Vienna, Austria, while that of St. Paul, and Venice, Italy, are the same. Its situation in the heart of the continent on the crest of the Great Central Plain, and freedom from mountain barriers were primary advantages in the settlement and growth of this prosperous state.

**SURFACE** The surface of Minnesota is a rolling plain diversified by moraine hills, valleys, and ridges of rock. Its elevation varies from 602 feet, near Lake Superior, to 2,230 feet in the Misquah Hills, Cook County. Its average altitude is 1,200 feet.

**CLIMATE** Although its temperature ranges from 30° below zero in winter to 90° or 100° above zero in summer, the state has a most healthful and invigorating climate. The mean annual rainfall is about 30 inches and, as this occurs during the growing season, it is sufficient to assure the farmer of an abundant crop. The large lake area has a considerable influence in tempering the climate. This is most appreciable near Lake Superior.

**FORESTS** Originally, over half of Minnesota was covered with forests of pine, spruce, tamarack, cedar, birch, basswood, oak, poplar, ash, elm, cottonwood, maple, and butternut. A large share of this timber was found in the northern counties, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, and Koochiching. The new settlers found excellent timber in abundance from which to build their log houses, and make homes in this wilderness.

**FISH AND GAME** Minnesota lakes, streams, and forests abounding in fish and game supplied a large share of the food and clothing of the Indians and early white settlers.

Deer, moose, beaver, bear, badger, fox, lynx, sable, raccoon, skunk, mink, muskrat, wolf, and wild cats were found in great numbers.

The buffalo that roamed the plains in herds are now extinct, but the other animals are still represented.

**BIRDS** Minnesota woods afforded a real paradise for song birds while game birds as duck, geese, prairie chicken and partridges were also found in abundance.

**RIVERS AND ACCESSIBILITY** As early explorers entered the country by way of its lakes and streams, the location proved of peculiar significance. Within its boundaries is the highest part of the Great Plain lying between Hudson Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

We find here the sources of three great river systems, the Red River of the North, the St. Lawrence, and the Mississippi. Their tributaries permeate every section of the state and, leading in different directions, make the country easy of access. In its later development, they became important commercial highways.

The native red men and the early white explorers, missionaries and fur-traders, in their light birch canoes, traversed the streams through the wild, wooded region of northern Minnesota and its southern undulating prairies.

Besides her extensive river systems, Minnesota has about 10,000 lakes, 8,000 of which are over a mile wide. The largest lakes are Red, Leech and Mille Lacs. These add scenic beauty to the state and furnish attractive summer resorts.

**SOIL** No state in the Union has a soil surpassing that of Minnesota in the high percent of plant food it

contains. The combination of glacial soil brought from north and east with its own rock soil made a thick layer, rich in its variety of mineral matter, and free from alkali and other injurious soil elements.

The southeastern part of the state, known as the driftless area, was untouched by the glacier; its principal soil is a most fertile clay loam of light yellow color.

The Red River valley has a particularly productive soil owing to the mixture of decayed animal and plant life with a fine rock dust.

## CHAPTER II

### INDIANS

#### EARLY INHABITANTS

As you travel by automobile or the swift passenger train from the cut-over pine and swamp lands of northern Minnesota, through the beautiful lake region and its southern rolling prairies, across streams with steel arched or cement bridges, past cities and towns whose prosperity is rivalled only by that of the surrounding agricultural or dairy districts, pause to note the changes time has wrought in the seventy years since our grandfathers came to the territory of Minnesota.

Then this area was inhabited by savage red men of the Dakota and Chippewa nations. These strong races, each having many tribes were always at war with one another. They made their homes along the lakes and streams finding an easy subsistence in the game of the forest and the fish and wild rice of the lake regions.

**SIoux** Centuries before the discovery of America, Indians, descendants of the Iroquois, followed the Ohio River to the upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

They called themselves *Dakota*, meaning *allies* or *confederates*; but their enemies, the Chippewas, gave them the hated name of *Nadowessiou*, meaning *snakes* or *enemies*. Sioux is an abbreviation of this longer name used by traders, and it has served the white man ever since. There were seven councils or tribes of this powerful nation; prominent

among them were the Yanktons, Sissetons, and Mende Wahkantoan.

These Sioux tribes spoke the same language. While quarrels among them were frequent, they often united to protect themselves against a common enemy. These Indians were strong and hardy, they were good runners, skilled bow-men and adept riders. They owned many horses, which were regarded as a source of wealth to the tribe. The Sioux were skillful in making pottery.

**CHIPPEWAS** The Ojibways, familiarly known as Chippewa, were not so numerous in the middle west as the Dakotas, but were confined mostly to the forests of northern Minnesota. They were always bitter enemies of the Sioux, but they were not so dreaded by the white settlers as the other Indians.

If you could have visited this tribe you would have admired the fine appearance of the warrior. As Gilfillan describes him, he was often six feet, eight inches tall, with a well developed chest, small limbs and hands, a springy step and graceful, easy carriage. He had abundant hair which did not turn gray until very late in life; white, even teeth; and a high, resonant voice.

The women were the burden bearers. They built the wigwams; cultivated the little fields; cut the wood; and carried heavy, cumbersome packs, often made heavier by the addition of a lively papoose, who was strapped on the top. They lost their grace and agility early in life and became bent and slow; but even the overworked and tired squaw was artistic in the beautiful bead work which she wrought and sold for a slight sum.

The Ojibways were fond of their children and loved their native home, from which they wandered less frequently than the Sioux. Besides being able to endure intense cold, the Chippewa could walk long distances without tiring. After the white settlers came, and the only means of carrying mail was by packing, an Indian was engaged to walk

between White Earth and Red Lake, a distance of ninety miles. He accomplished this journey in two and a half days, carrying a mail sack weighing from fifty to seventy-five pounds. For remuneration he received two and a half dollars, which he considered ample.

**DRESS** The dress of the early savage was made of skins, ornamented with the teeth and claws of animals. His copper colored skin was painted and daubed with the juice of berries or roots; and on his coarse black hair, he wore a head dress of gaudy feathers. If a brave wanted to appear as fierce as possible, he shaved his hair leaving only a scalp lock. With his sharp, black eyes and high cheek bones, he was a foe most terrible to look upon.

During the heat of summer, the furs and skins were discarded leaving his hideously painted body clad only in a breech clout. In later years, the skin garments gave place to those made of coarse cotton cloth.

**HOMES** The trader, journeying from one fur station to another, was happy if, as night overtook him, he saw the smoke from an Indian wigwam; for here the stranger was always sure of a welcome.

This conical wigwam was made of a number of small poles, set in the ground a few feet apart and joined at the top. It was covered by large skins so arranged as to leave an opening at the apex for ventilation and the exit of smoke. The Indian's guest did not knock or otherwise announce his coming, but silently lifted the tent flap and entered. After a long, cold journey across the uninhabited plains, let us imagine the cheerful scene before the tired and hungry traveler.

In the center of the tepee, burns a bright fire, over which hangs a large kettle which contains the evening meal, while around it, sit the members of the family. The trader is given a place in the circle and is served a palatable and satisfying repast, consisting perhaps of a buffalo hump, or the tail of a beaver.

After supper the dishes are gathered and placed to one side until they are again needed. The remainder of the evening is spent in listening to the news brought by the traveler and in jokes and merry laughter, for the Indian enjoys the life of his fireside.

The little one runs about the wigwam clothed only in a loose cotton dress, seemingly oblivious to the rigor of the northern winter.

As each one grows sleepy, he wraps his single blanket about him and lies down with his feet toward the fire as happily as we do in our warm homes and comfortable beds. The trader with all his clothing and his blanket, shivers with the cold and often rises to warm himself and feed the dying fire.

The Indian's manner of welcoming strangers varied in different tribes. If pleased to see one, they patted their own arms and legs and then those of the guest. Sometimes the host would rub the limbs of the visitor, probably to relieve him of fatigue. Some tribes showed their good will by washing the traveller's feet, blowing into his ears, scratching his shoulders, and often by kissing and hand-shaking.

**FOOD** The natives made use of the edible plants and fruits found wild in the region. First among these were wild rice, berries and nuts. Wild rice grew very abundantly in the swamps and along the lake and river bottoms of all parts of the state.

To harvest it, the Indians tied the heads of several stalks together in bunches, which were arranged in rows. Whole villages went together to the rice lakes and each family had a specified number of rows.

The squaws paddled a canoe between these rows, and the heads of grain were beaten off on to a blanket laid in the bottom of the boat. The grains were then parched and could thus be preserved for years.

The Indians taught the early settlers the cultivation



and use of the potato, tomato, beans, pumpkin, squash and maize.

Maize, or Indian corn, was so easily cultivated that it was a staple article of food. A hill was usually selected as a good growing place; stone implements scratched the soil; and the seed was planted. The neighboring trees were killed to let in the sunshine, and a good harvest usually resulted. It was easy to pick the ears as they were needed, as the stalks were left standing.

**MAPLE SUGAR** The Indians were fond of maple sugar. In the cold, early spring, before the sap had begun to move in the trees, the clan broke camp and left for the maple grove.

The braves marched proudly ahead carrying their guns while the squaws gathered the tent poles, wrapped the skin coverings carefully about them, folded the blankets and fastened all on the ponies. Then, with their papooses strapped on their backs, they followed.

The Indians were too shiftless to provide a sufficient store of food for the winter, and often the spring found them in want. Therefore, the sugar season was anxiously awaited, when they became joyously active, wandering about all day, gathering the sap, returning to the wigwam at night, tired and wet, having waded in the melting snow and icy water. From this, they apparently experienced little suffering, and were often rewarded by several hundred pounds of the purest maple sugar.

The game of field and forest supplied an abundance of animal food; the Sioux tribe was sometimes called "The Nation of the Beef" because of its dependence on the buffalo.

**BUFFALO** The flesh of this animal supplied a most delicious food; and the milk, a drink; while its hide furnished clothing, covering for the wigwam, and strong ropes. The sinews, hair, and horns also found a use in the economy of savage life.

The Indian made great preparations for the buffalo hunt. In addition to the need of the game was the savage joy of the chase. However, until the advent of the avaricious fur trader, the Indian seldom killed more animals than his needs demanded.

When the brave returned with his prize, his work was finished. The faithful squaw, after giving her family a delicious repast of the fresh buffalo meat, cut the remainder into thin broad slices and hung it on poles in the hot sun for two or three days, a time sufficient for its preservation, making the dried or jerked beef which was a common food among the Indians.

She then took the large green buffalo skin and, after stretching it out upon the ground, fastened its edges with strong pegs to keep it in place, and vigorously applied a sharp bone knife to remove all particles of flesh. Then she turned it and scraped off the hair as dexterously, with a sort of iron plane. If the hide was to be used for moccasins or clothing, it was worked by the hands until soft and pliable. Sometimes it was smoked to make it more nearly waterproof although darker in color.

**LANGUAGE** The Indian had only a spoken language, as he had no use for the written form. Different bands of the same tribe spoke various dialects; while the languages of Sioux and Chippewa were totally unlike. Both were figurative and rather musical.

Our language is rich with Indian terms as tomahawk, wampum, squaw, papoose, succotash, toboggan, hominy, pemmican, moccasin, totem, and names of native animals as raccoon, wood-chuck, chip-munk, moose, caribou, opossum, skunk, and many others.

Hills, mountains, villages, cities, lakes, counties, and states bear names derived from the language of the first dweller. Among those most common to us are:

Mississippi—meaning Great River.

Mankato—blue earth.

Winona—first Indian daughter.

Chaska—first Indian son.

Minnetonka—big water.

Minnehaha—laughing water.

Wabasha—red battle standard.

**RELIGION**      The Indian race has many superstitions, and believes in many gods. They fear the spirits of the dead and worship ghosts of men and animals. They are as zealous in worshipping a painted rock, a tree, or a turtle drawn in the sand with a stick, as they are in their reverence for the god of the sun, the moon, or of thunder. These spirits are supposed to be both good and evil; the former must be satisfied in order to grant the blessings they were able to bestow; while the latter must be appeased to prevent some calamity which they were capable of bringing to pass. Thus, throughout the year, their worshippers dutifully engaged in dances and feasts as religious ceremonies, each having its peculiar significance. Among the best known are the scalp dance and the war dance.

**MEDICINE  
MEN**      Great number of "medicine-men," imposing upon the superstition of the race, gained power among them. It is surprising that so keen and shrewd a nation should have been so duped by men skilled only in deceit and craft.

If an Indian were sick, he immediately sent for the medicine-man, who came only upon the assurance of liberal payment. Upon his arrival, he was escorted to the tent where the patient lay and there, with the most ridiculous contortions and hideous noises, he attempted to frighten away the evil spirit which possessed the ill. A dry gourd filled with stones, served as a rattle which was kept in motion over the body of the sufferer, and was supposed to be helpful but, in spite of all demonstrations, the soul of the afflicted often took its departure to the land of the "Great Spirit."

## **RELICS AND INDIAN MOUNDS**

Today are found, usually along the lakes and rivers of Minnesota, several thousand conical shaped earth mounds varying in height from one to fifteen feet.

Writers once maintained that these mounds were built by a distinct race of partly civilized people, known as mound builders, who dwelt here before the Indians; but this theory has now given place to a more generally accepted one, that these mounds were built by the early ancestors of our American Indians, and that they were used by them as burial places for their dead.

The mounds which have been excavated, have been found to contain human bones, skulls, etc., besides beads, pottery, shells, and Indian relics. Many of these, including war clubs, peace-pipes, flint arrow heads, tomahawks, shells, teeth and jawbones of animals may be seen among the curios in the museum of the State Historical Society.

## **CONDITION OF INDIANS AFTER COMING OF WHITE MEN**

The Indians of early centuries loved their native land, enjoyed the streams in their bark canoes, and roamed the forests and prairies whose wild birds and animals were as familiar to them as the domestic animals are to us. They were satisfied to fish and hunt only to gain food and clothing, and supply the necessities of savage life.

When the civilized fur-trader with his greed for wealth came among them, the Indians were supplied with guns and ammunition and taught the practice of killing for skins alone. The savage, having no idea of the value of money and being an excellent hunter and trapper, secured an abundance of pelts for the white man for very small pay. From this slaughter, came a scarcity of wild animals and lack of food for the savage tribes, which made them dependent on the *whites*.

The white, careless of the degradation brought upon his own race through liquor, brought fire-water to the redmen.

His indulgence led to wild debauchery and abject poverty. Large numbers, sometimes whole tribes, also lost their lives through small-pox, measles and other diseases hitherto unknown among them.

## CHAPTER III

# EARLY FRENCH EXPLORATIONS

### 1608-1763

**CHAMPLAIN** As most of the early explorations were made by means of water-ways and by bands of fur traders, it is not strange that Minnesota was entered early. The head waters of the three great river systems of America are in the state, and their branches permeate nearly every section of it. In her abundant forests of the north, thrived thousands of fur-bearing animals while great herds of buffalo grazed on her southern prairies.

About the time that Jamestown was settled, and several years before the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Samuel Champlain was made Lieutenant of New France, which then included the Lower St. Lawrence valley, Nova Scotia, and the region of Lake Champlain.

Champlain was very ambitious. He hoped to find a western route to China and organized expeditions for that purpose. He founded the city of Quebec; enlarged the area of New France somewhat by Indian wars; and instituted fur trading companies who reaped a great harvest in their trade with western Indian tribes.

These early fur traders led a life of privation and hardship but one of excitement and adventure. They were called *coureurs des bois* and were often young men who had spent months or perhaps years, among the Indians, learning their language and their manner of hunting, and wood-craft. Responsible merchants provided an outfit consisting of canoes,

food, ammunition, clothing and also a collection of cheap, tawdry articles for Indian trade; and the voyageurs set out into the untracked wilderness. Sometimes a trader might be absent a year or more; but often he came back with his canoe laden with valuable furs and with stirring accounts of the new lands he had visited.

Champlain died in 1635, but he had accomplished much in creating an enthusiasm for exploration of the new country and establishing a profitable enterprise there which continued to expand.

**GROSSEILLIERS AND RADISSON** In 1560, two voyageurs returning from an expedition of two years, reported that they had traveled far to the west and visited many Indian tribes, among them the Nadowessieux.

It is believed that these men were *Sieur des Grosseilliers* and *Sieur des Radisson*. Their story is based on a manuscript supposed to be written by Radisson and preserved for over two hundred years in the library of Oxford University.

According to this report, Grosseilliers and Radisson traversed Minnesota from Lake Superior into Kanabec County. If we can believe the account, these two men were the first white men to visit Minnesota; however, they left no map to teach others their route, and they did not otherwise establish their claim as discoverers of the land so that their story, while interesting, is of no real importance to us.

**FUR TRADERS** About 1660, France awakened to the importance of her possessions in America, and New France was taken from the hands of the Company of New France, which had hitherto managed its affairs; and it became a royal province. Frontenac was appointed its governor in 1672.

About this time, also, many Jesuit Fathers of France came to Canada hoping to convert the Indians to their faith.



They were men of determination and of learning and they contributed largely to the explorations of the French.

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Note. Marquette, in his description, gives an in- of the Northwest, a remarkable class of religious zealots, the Jesuits, had explored the region of the Great Lakes and the head waters of the Mississippi.

These missionaries were true heroes. They left homes of comfort and study and cast their lot with the wandering tribes of Indians. They suffered toil, privation, and often martyrdom with unflinching courage that they might carry the Gospel of Christ to the savages of the wilderness.

Williams gives us this quotation from Bishop Kip: "Amid the snows of Hudson's Bay; among the woody islands and beautiful inlets of the St. Lawrence; by the council fires of the *Hurons* and of the *Algonquins*; at the sources of the Mississippi, where, first of all the white men, their eyes looked down upon the Falls of St. Anthony, and then traced down the course of the bounding river as it rushed onward to earn its title of 'Father of Waters' on the vast prairies of Illinois and Missouri; among the blue hills which hem in the salubrious dwellings of the *Cherokees*, and in the thick cane-brakes of Louisiana—everywhere were found the members of the Society of Jesus."

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Through the efforts of the traders and the Jesuits, the northern valley of the Great Lakes became comparatively well known and in 1679, a Company of Canadian traders conceived the idea of establishing a permanent trading post at the head of Lake Superior. Daniel Greyloson, the *Sieur DuLuth*, became the first agent of that post which he located on the left bank of the Pigeon River. Du Luth was therefore the first white man known to establish himself in Minnesota. He has a very interesting history and for many years he was closely associated with the story of Minnesota.

**DULUTH** This early promoter of French and Indian trade was born near Paris. He had been an European soldier and made several voyages to New France.

In the fall of 1678, with several Frenchmen, Du Luth made a journey by canoe to Lake Superior. He spent two years here exploring and trying to secure Indian fur trade for the French.

During this time, the French government made it a crime to engage in trade without a license from the King. Many of the strong and active young men in the French settlements along the St. Lawrence, realizing the profits to be made, deserted their homes to become outlaws or bush-rangers. They became a menace to the government, and this free life in the wilderness let them into many dangers. Du Luth was accused of being a leader of these deserters, but he denied it and gave proofs of his fidelity to the government. He had great influence with the Indians, promoted peace among them, restricted the Indian trade with the English Hudson Bay Company, and tried to save them from the evil of intoxicating liquor.

**MARQUETTE** About two hundred years prior to this  
**AND** time (1541), De Sota had discovered the  
**JOLIET** lower Mississippi River. But little importance had been given to the fact, and, because means of communication were few, it was probably not very generally known. The Indians of the Northwest told the Jesuits and the traders of a great river to the westward which they called *Mese Seepi* or "Great River" and the French resolved to visit this stream.

Accordingly, Joliet, once a priest but now a fur trader, and Marquette, a Jesuit, set out, May, 1673, with five other Frenchmen on an expedition for that purpose.

Marquette has provided us with a description of this journey which, however, he was obliged to write from memory, as his papers were lost during his return voyage. He was especially well fitted for the undertaking from his long

residence among the Hurons and his knowledge of their habits and language.

His Indian friends tried to dissuade him from his purpose by describing the fierceness of the tribes to be encountered and the dangers of the Great River which they said was full of frightful monsters capable of devouring both men and canoes. In reply, Marquette explained to them that he would be glad to lose his life if by so doing, he could save the souls of the natives.

Their course lay through the Green Bay into the Fox River. From the head of this river, the Indians guided them through swamps, and fields of wild oats into the waters of the Ouisconsing (Wisconsin.) This they followed until they came into the Mississippi, June 1673.

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Note      Marquette, in his description, gives an interesting account of the strange fish and animals which they encountered. He describes one animal as "a hideous monster, his head was like that of a tiger, his nose was sharp, and somewhat resembled a wild cat, his beard was long; his ears stood upright; the color of his head was gray; and his neck was black. He looked upon us for some time but, as we came near him, our oars frightened him away."

Like others recounting past adventures, Marquette must have allowed his imagination considerable play.

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They followed the Mississippi past the mouth of the Missouri and to the Arkansas. Here, Marquette says: "Having satisfied ourselves that the Gulf of Mexico was in latitude  $31^{\circ} 40'$  and that we could reach it in three or four days' journey from the Arkansas, and that the Mississippi discharged into it and not to the eastward of the Cape of Florida, nor into the California Sea, we resolved to return home. We considered that the advantage of our travels would be altogether lost to our nation if we fell into the hands of the Spaniard from whom we could expect no other treatment than death or slavery; besides, we saw that we

were not prepared to resist the Indians, the allies of the Europeans, who continually infested the lower part of this river." About the middle of July, they returned by way of Illinois River to Lake Michigan. Marquette died two years later at the age of thirty-eight.

The voyage of Marquette was important because his report proved the truth of Indian accounts of the existence of the Great River. In 1682, there was fitted out another expedition for further exploration of the Mississippi.

**LA SALLE** La Salle was a descendant of a noble French family; he was once a Jesuit but became a fur trader. The story of Marquette's voyage filled La Salle with eagerness to follow the Mississippi still farther toward its mouth. He consulted Gov. Frontenac, who encouraged the plan, but was unable to fit out the expedition and persuaded him to return to France to get a patent from the King. La Salle returned; but four years elapsed before he secured the royal support.

After this, money was supplied and about thirty volunteers arrived at Quebec in 1678. With him on this voyage was Father Louis Hennepin. They soon started westward, traversed Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Michigan, and after many discouraging experiences, the winter of 1680 found them in a fort built on the bank of the Illinois River, near the present site of Peoria. This they named Ft. Creve Coeur (Heart-break). La Salle left a small company here, while he returned to New France for provisions.

**HENNEPIN** La Salle had been authorized by the crown to continue the explorations made by Joliet of the lower Mississippi to its mouth. The fact that the King had not specified the upper Mississippi in his patent, did not daunt this enthusiastic leader. He selected three of his men, Hennepin, the priest, and Anguelle and Accault, two traders, to accomplish this part of the journey.

Father Louis Hennepin was born in Belgium in 1640.

He had entered the order of St. Francis in his youth, and served it in France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Germany. He had the double purpose of adventure for adventure's sake, and the converting of savages to Christianity.

This trip was a dangerous undertaking, but the men were ambitious and Hennepin encouraged them in the belief that they would follow the river to the sea and find a passage to Japan, which he believed was on the same continent as America.

Loading their canoes with merchandise to be used as presents for the savages they might encounter, and also as money in their trade with them, our three heroes left their comrades, Feb. 29, 1680, and started out on an expedition filled with hardships and peril. By the middle of March, they reached the mouth of the Illinois and proceeded up the Mississippi River. This attempt had never before been made by a white man. They continued in safety until April 11, when, coming down the river, they saw a sight, which, brave as they were, made their hearts beat faster.

Here were thirty-three canoes filled with Indian warriors of the Dakota tribe, going forth against their enemies, the Illinois Indians. Learning from the French that the Illinois tribe had crossed the river to hunt, they decided to return home and compelled the Frenchmen to go with them as captives. These Indians were called Lake Villagers, and lived near Mille Lacs, in several different villages.

While going up the river, the white men often excited the wonder and curiosity of the Indians. Hennepin tells us that when he was at prayer, the Indians thought he was a magician, and followed him about through the woods, not wishing to leave him alone. The mariner's compass which he showed them filled them with apprehension. Once one of the white men, seeing a wild turkey, fired his gun, not only killing the turkey but terrifying the savages who had never heard the report of a gun.

Our French men had in their possession an iron kettle



with feet like a lion's paw. The Indians refused to touch this with their hands.

Many times, they contemplated killing their captives, but spared them in the hope of entering into fur trading with the French. After traveling for about twenty days, the party reached the present site of St. Paul and went overland past Dayton's Bluff and the shores of Lake Phalen to Mille Lacs. This strenuous march from St. Paul to the Sioux villages took them five days. When they reached Mille Lacs, Hennepin and his followers were sent to separate villages, uncertain as to what fate awaited them.

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Note. The Frenchmen were stiff and sore from their long walk. In kindness, the Indians treated them to a steam bath. Their way of doing this was to build a small lodge of poles covered with buffalo skins. Into this they put several red hot boulders. The patient, stripped of his clothing, poured water on the stones. He was enveloped in a dense cloud of steam, which he endured as long as possible; then he was taken out and given a vigorous rubbing. This treatment was very helpful in relieving the muscles of their fatigue.

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The following July, the chief allowed Anguelle and Hennepin to go in a canoe down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Wisconsin, where they expected to find reinforcements of Frenchmen with food, ammunition and goods sent by La Salle.

During this time, Accault was still a captive and on a hunt with the savages. On this voyage, they passed the falls of St. Anthony, which Hennepin so named for St. Anthony of Padua. The party proceeded to the Wisconsin but found there no trace of the expected supplies and returned to Mille Lacs.

On his return voyage, Hennepin met Du Luth and some French soldiers coming from the Lake Superior region. They accompanied him to the Lake Villages. Duluth had

met the Indians of Mille Lacs the year before at a great council where he had persuaded them of the advantages of French trade. They respected his counsel and the next fall, allowed Hennepin and his party to accompany Du Luth upon his departure under a supposition that they would return bringing goods to establish a trading post.

The French party followed first the Rum River, then the Mississippi to the Wisconsin. From this river, they portaged across to Green Bay, and, free at last, returned to France. The name of this explorer is perpetuated in that of Hennepin County.

Father Hennepin published his first account of this voyage, under the title "Description of Louisiana," which he dedicated to the king of France, in 1683. While he has confused geographical ideas, this story is in the main, considered truthful.

A second account, "New Discovery of a Very Great Country Situated in America," contains many exaggerations which may have been introduced by some editor unknown to Hennepin.

## **LA SALLE'S SECOND VOYAGE**

La Salle returned to the Illinois river in 1682 and proceeded down the Mississippi to its mouth. Here, with elaborate ceremonies, he took possession of the Mississippi and all her tributaries in the name of the King of France.

**LE SUEUR** Another French subject, Le Sueur, had built a trading post on an island ("Isle Pelee," now Prairie Island) in the Mississippi, about nine miles below Hastings, through an order of Governor Frontenac. He believed that he had discovered copper in this region and hastened to Montreal and from there to Paris to gain permission to open mines in New France. He received permission and returned to Minnesota in 1699. He and several companions ascended the St. Peter's (Minnesota) River which



they followed to the mouth of the Blue Earth. Here they built a fort, "L Huillier," and filled a boat with a peculiar bluish green earth found in the bluffs of this region. In 1702, he set sail for home. The mineral he carried proved worthless and he never returned; but he has left his name among us as another, willing to adventure and endure much in an effort to explore the resources of this new world.

## **FAILURE OF FRENCH IN AMERICA**

The French, at the beginning of the 18th century, had some knowledge of the region of the Great Lakes, almost the entire length of the Mississippi valley and a portion of each of her great tributaries; but in all of this extensive territory, she had made few permanent settlements. She established trading posts, forts and missions, but she did not establish homes. Her out posts were not self-supporting, but, with the exception of supplies gained by hunting and fishing, were almost entirely dependent upon the mother country.

The period between 1700 and 1763 was one of disturbance in France. She was at war almost continuously and was unable to give her explorers and colonists as liberal support as formerly; certain Indian tribes, Sacs, Foxes, and Sioux were often hostile in their behavior: and French exploration in the Northwest languished. Probably the great value of this enormous extent of territory was not appreciated in France when, in 1763, she relinquished to England all her territory east of the Mississippi except New Orleans.

## CHAPTER IV

# ENGLISH EXPLORATIONS

### 1763-1783

#### ENGLISH AND FRENCH OWNER- SHIP

Now, the history of Minnesota is divided for several years into parts, for the territory east of the Mississippi became an English holding while that west of the Mississippi, under the name of Louisiana, belonged to the Spanish.

To the men who for the most part, occupied our great state at this time, the change of ownership signified very little. Far removed from the dissensions of Europe, they hunted deer and bison, fished, gathered wild rice, raised corn, built their homes and made their clothing.

Their canoes floated down the quiet stream; the hills echoed their songs; only occasionally through some passing trader, they heard the name of the "Great White Father" beyond the waters.

Foremost among the explorers sent out by England into her new, far western possessions was Jonathan Carver.

#### JONATHAN CARVER

Jonathan Carver was born in Connecticut in 1732. His father was a Justice of the Peace, a much more important office at that time than we consider it today. Jonathan studied medicine, but finding that he disliked this profession, he gave it up. He became an ensign in a Connecticut regiment during the

French and Indian War where he distinguished himself for his courage and leadership; though he nearly lost his life at the massacre of Ft. William Henry.

In June, 1766, Carver left Boston and reached Mackinaw, a well-established English post, in August. From there, accompanied by a French Canadian and a Mohawk Indian, he followed the regular route of travel to Green Bay and by the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, reached the Mississippi.

The account of his voyage describes his trip up the Mississippi River as far as Lake Pepin and up the Minnesota as far as New Ulm. At the latter place, he found a band of friendly Sioux with whom he spent the winter.

In the spring, he accompanied about three hundred of these Indians, who, after their custom, brought the bodies of their dead to be buried at the Indian mounds on Dayton's Bluff—now part of St. Paul.

He tells us that here the Indians knew a wonderful cave which they called the dwelling of the Great Spirit. Its walls were covered with Indian characters. This was the council chamber of the natives.

Carver's description of a funeral oration given in this cave furnished the theme for Schiller's "Song of the Nadawessee Chief," which is considered one of his best works.

The explorer expected a supply of goods when he reached the Falls of St. Anthony to be sent by Rogers, the officer in command at Mackinaw. Receiving none, he went on to Prairie du Chien, a French town, whose name means "*Dog Prairie*," so called after an old Indian chief titled, "The Dog." It was at this time, a village of about three hundred people and was the chief center of the fur-trading industry. Carver was disappointed here also in receiving supplies and decided to go to the traders on Pigeon River, on the northern shore of Lake Superior. This was a long and hazardous journey and after reaching his destination, he found these traders, too, were unable to supply him.

Necessity compelled him to return to England to seek

aid from the government. He never returned to America, but published a full account of his travels, in which he prophesied the future commercial value of the Great Lakes and river systems of Minnesota.

After his death, Carver's heirs produced a deed which they said he obtained from two Indian chiefs, May, 1767, while he was at Carver's Cave. This grant included St. Paul and much of Wisconsin, but the claim of the heirs was refuted by both the English and the American governments. Much of Carver's story is now discredited.

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Note:

Carver's cave was well known to early explorers of Minnesota, but in later years, the location of its entrance was forgotten.

During 1913, the Mound Park Improvement Association of St. Paul succeeded in their efforts to re-discover and open the cave.

## CHAPTER V

# EARLY EXPLORATIONS BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT 1783-1838

### **EASTERN MINNESOTA, U. S. TERRITORY**

By the treaty of 1783, in which England acknowledged our independence, the western boundary of the United States was the Mississippi River. Thus Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, belonged to the United States. It was a part of that unorganized western territory claimed with some show of justice by Virginia, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut. These states finally relinquished their claims (1787) and the Northwest Ordinances were passed. By these ordinances, Eastern Minnesota became nominally under the government of the Northwest Territory, but her trading posts were still in the hands of British companies, and her laws were practically made by the agents of these companies.

### **WESTERN MINN. COMES UNDER U. S. GOVERNMENT**

In 1803, the United States purchased Louisiana from France. This territory extended from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains thus including Western Minnesota. The entire area of our state was now held by the United States.

## PIKE'S JOURNEY

**PURPOSE** In 1805, Jefferson ordered Zebulon Pike to visit the upper region of the Mississippi to discover the source of that river; to make alliances with the Indian tribes; to attempt to bring about peace between contending tribes; and to ascertain the behavior of English fur traders regarding governmental regulations.

**DIFFICULTIES OF JOURNEY** In his diary, Pike describes some of the difficulties of his undertaking: "In the execution of this voyage, I had no gentleman to aid me and I literally performed the duties of astronomer, surveyor, commanding officer, clerk, spy, guide, and hunter, frequently preceding the party for miles in order to reconnoiter and returning in the evening, hungry and fatigued, to sit down in the open air, by the fire light, to copy the notes and plot the course of the day." No one can read Pike's account of this voyage without feeling that he was ably fitted for his commission. He was steadfast, earnest and apparently untiring.

Pike left Dubuque, September 2, 1805. Up the Mississippi River, which has since become, in a comparatively short time, one of the great commercial highways of the world, Pike then journeyed many miles without encountering a man or looking upon a single human habitation.

**LAND OF THE SIOUX** On the morning of September 10, one of his men fired at a pigeon and the shot was heard at a Sioux encampment near. The chief, La Feuille ("The Leaf") also called *Wabashaw*, sent Pike a friendly message and invited the company to visit his camp. The next day, they accepted the invitation. They were well received by the chief and allowed to witness a religious dance.

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Note 1: "Men and women danced indiscriminately. They were all dressed in the gayest manner; each had in his hand a small skin of some description, and would fre-

quently run up, point this skin at a companion, and give a puff with his breath when the person blown at, whether man or woman, would fall and appear to be almost lifeless or in great agony; but would recover slowly, rise and join again in the dance. This they called 'The Great Medicine' and they believed that they actually puffed something into each other's bodies which occasioned their falling." Minn. Hist. Coll., Vol. 2.

Note 2. The present city of Winona occupies a plain long known as Wabashaw's Prairie. The chief village of this land, Keoxa, was located at the upper end of the valley.

L. H. Bunnell gives us an interesting account of the first Chief Wabashaw, and the derivation of his name.

The Indians of Minnesota did not welcome the English traders when they came to supplant the French and often opposed their establishment. One English trader holding a post near the mouth of the St. Peter's was shot by a Sioux Indian and the English decided to abandon that post.

This soon became a great hardship to the Indians for there was no other source from which they could obtain supplies of fire-arms and ammunition and they were at a great disadvantage in their contests with the Chippewas, their ancient enemy, who were well supplied with both.

After much deliberation, the Sioux decided to give up the murderer to the British authorities at Quebec and beg for the re-establishment of the post.

It was a serious band of warriors and their families who, under the leadership of their chief Wapa (The Leaf) began their journey to the distant stronghold. Before they reached Quebec, many became disheartened and turned back and the murderer made his escape. Only six remained with the chief. To give up the project, meant the possible annihilation of his band and finally, Wapa volunteered to give himself to the British instead of the escaped criminal; and, if need be, sacrifice his life for the better welfare of his people.

Needless to say, the British released him when they heard his story and sent him home happy with the promise



of a renewed trade and with a splendid uniform which included a bright red cap.

Upon his return, clad in his gorgeous apparel, he marched at the head of his followers into his own village and his people hailed him as Wapa ha sha (red cap). This title was thereafter hereditary in the tribe.

Among both white men and Indians, Wabasha was respected as a brave warrior and wise counselor. It was his son who was met by Pike on this voyage and his grand-son, Wabashaw, was chief of the band when they were finally removed to the reservation in accordance with the treaty of

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Pike urged Wabasha to make peace with the Chippewa and finally the great chief gave him a peace pipe that he might carry to them as a token of friendliness.

Feeling well pleased with the result of his encounter with this band, Pike resumed his journey. Now it led him through the beautiful Lake Pepin and to the present site of Red Wing. Here, Pike found encamped another great Sioux chief, Shakea (Red Wing). Red Wing also received him courteously and moreover offered to accompany him to the village of Kapoja, about ten miles below the mouth of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) River. This village was a little east of the site of the present city of St. Paul, probably lying on the flats below Dayton's Bluff.

The tribal name of the Indians of this village was Kapoja and the hereditary name of their chief was Petit Corbeau (Little Crow).

Sheltered from cold winds, and close to their fishing grounds, their huts were gathered about the base of the bluffs; but on the wide plains above, where now are broad avenues and beautiful homes, they hunted deer, bison, and bear.

When Pike reached this village, September 21, he found the Indians gone to gather wild rice in distant marshes. Along the winding river, through the woods that then grew



close to its banks, past the great bluffs called by the Indians, *In im i ja Ska* White Rock), he reached the same day, the temporary encampment of Jean Baptiste Faribault, near the mouth of the St. Peter's and below the present village of Mendota.

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Note 1. On his way from Red Wing, Pike camped at Red Rock, Washington County. Here was a famous stone called by the Indians, *Red Medicine Stone*. It was a syenite rock deposited long ago by the great glacier. The Indians painted it red; and before it, they worshipped and left gifts for the Great Spirit. The first Methodist mission of Minnesota was established here and it has since been the scene of many religious encampments of both Indians and white men.

Note 2. *Jean Baptiste Faribault*. The name of Jean Baptiste Faribault is closely associated with the early history of Minnesota. For about fifty years, he was a prominent fur-trader of the northwest. Previous to the war of 1812, Faribault operated a post at Prairie du Chien. He refused to aid the British forces during that war and his post was destroyed and he was left penniless and homeless. Not daunted, he began anew, and in 1819, removed to Pike's Island and later to a position near Mendota at the mouth of the St. Peter's. He operated this post for the American Fur Company under Astor for some time. He was also agent for the post at Little Rapids. His counsel was always valuable in Indian affairs, because of his long and intimate acquaintance with them; moreover he was a man of robust, sound principles and good sense whose opinion commanded respect. His son, Alexander, founded the city of Faribault.

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Pike made his own encampment on an island opposite the mouth of the St. Peter's called since, Pike's Island. The next day, he returned to Kapoja and met in council, the great chiefs, *Le Petit Corbeau* (Little Crow) and *L'Orig-*

*nal Leve* (Rising Moose) also *Fils de Pinchon* (half-breed son of a Frenchman, Pinchon).

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Note: L'Original Leve (The Rising Moose) is a name given by the French to a young brave who was Pike's guide during part of this voyage. Pike called him, "my friend," and because of the honor of this friendship, his Indian associates thereafter called him "Ta ma ha" (Pike). Having lost one eye during his boyhood, he is sometimes described as the "One-eyed Sioux" by traders, but the title of which he was most proud was "The One American Sioux."

Tamaha was of Wabashaw's band. He was tall and fine in appearance and was vigorously active till the day of his death.

During the war of 1812, when many Sioux were induced by Colonel Dickson to ally themselves with the English, Tamaha alone of all the chiefs, remained loyal to the Americans even though Dickson threatened him with death. General Clark, recognizing his loyalty, made him a chief of the Sioux nation and presented him with a captain's uniform and medal, which he wore always afterward on state occasions.

In 1862, when the Sioux were banished, Tamaha was obliged to go with the tribe and his grief was so great that it hastened his death.

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These chiefs granted the government represented by Pike, 100,000 acres including the St. Anthony Falls and the St. Croix River. For this immense tract, he presented the Indians gifts to the value of about two hundred dollars. Pike also urged the Indians to transfer their allegiance to the American government rather than that of England.

While in this vicinity, he visited St. Anthony Falls and took careful measurements of them and made a map of the surrounding region.

## LAND OF THE CHIPPEWAS

From Kaposia, (Kapoja) Pike proceeded steadily up the river among increasing hardships. The weather grew cold and his men were becoming exhausted. Accordingly, he stopped at the mouth of the Swan River near Little Falls and built an encampment. He stayed here for a time building sleds and "*peroques*" (canoes) then, leaving part of his men and provisions, pressed on again toward Sandy Lake which he reached January 13. Sandy Lake was in charge of a British trader, Mr. Grant, who represented the Northwestern Fur Company. This was the most important post in northern Minnesota. Imagine Pike's displeasure when he saw the British flag flying above it. Mr. Grant received him very courteously.

Pike describes the post: "It has attained at present such regularity as to permit the superintendent to live in tolerable comfort. They have horses procured from the Red River, of the Indians; raise plenty of Irish potatoes; catch pike, suckers, pickerel, and white fish in abundance. They have also beaver, bear, and moose but the provision they depend upon is wild oats, of which they purchase great quantities from the savages; but flour, pork and salt are almost interdicted to persons not principals in the trade. Flour sells at 50 cents; salt, \$1.00; pork, 80 cents; sugar, 50 cents; coffee—; tea, \$4.50 per pound. Maple sugar is obtained from the Indians." This, a description of the home of one of the most powerful men of the time in Minnesota! For several years, the men of these posts would not see the face of another white man, they had few books or none, and only very limited and irregular communications with the world outside.

From Sandy Lake, Pike crossed to Leech Lake which he believed to be the head or source of the Mississippi. He lodged on the shore of this lake with Hugh McGillis, who was the director of this division of the Northwestern Fur Company. Here also he was very hospitably entertained but remarked that this post, too, was flying the colors of England.

He supposed he had performed two of the purposes of his voyage, two others remained.

He wrote Mr. McGillis an order demanding that the British flags be removed from the posts within the boundaries of the United States; that no more goods be smuggled across the Northern boundary evading the customs; and that British traders be instructed to give no more British flags, nor medals to the Indians. Mr. McGillis agreed by letter to these terms.

Pike also met here the great Chippewa chiefs in council: *Curly Head* of Gull Lake, *Flatmouth* of Leech Lake, and *Broken Tooth* of Sandy Lake. The names of these chiefs are not so pleasantly suggestive as those of the Sioux; but they were counted the three greatest of the Chippewa leaders. Pike showed them the peace pipe of Wabasha and urged them also to make peace. After some discussion, they agreed to do so and delegated some of the young men of their tribe to return with Pike and carry messages of peace to the Sioux, and of allegiance to the government fathers of St. Louis.

## **RETURN AND RESULTS OF VOYAGE**

Pike now believed that he had accomplished all that he had been sent to do and returned to St. Louis, happy in that belief; but events of the next few years overthrew much that he hoped he had accomplished. When the war between England and the United States broke out, the Indians broke the treaties of alliance they had made with us: the tribes, between whom Pike hoped he had made permanent peace, were engaged in bitterest warfare; the British posts became recruiting stations for bands of Indians and half-breeds; later explorations proved that Leech Lake is not the true source of the Mississippi. Let us not, however, think that Pike's voyage was a failure. His story awakened new interest in the upper valley of the Mississippi and led to its further exploration and final settle-

ment and also led the government to see the necessity of providing for its defense.

### **EARLY FUR-TRADE OF MINNESOTA**

Affairs in the early government of Minnesota were handled through the Northwestern Fur Company. This was a powerful company organized in Montreal in 1783, by whom great quantities of goods were brought here from England and were re-distributed to the posts west and north of the Great Lakes. It controlled practically all the fur trade of this region and was the real dispenser of its laws.

Eastern Minnesota became free from England by the treaty of 1783, but the English continued to build posts here. Sandy Lake Post in Aitkin County, the most important trading post among the Chippewas, was built in 1794 and the British flag flew over it in 1805 in defiance of treaties made with the United States.

These British trading posts were always a menace to the continuance of American government in the Northwest and during the war of 1812, their commanders took an active part in the service of England.

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Note. (*Minnesota in Three Centuries Vol. 2 P. 32 R. I. Holcombe*) "In Minnesota County, Robert Dickson (British superintendent of the western tribes) and his emissaries induced members of the Sioux and Chippewas to violate the obligations of their treaty with Lieutenant Pike and join the British forces in warfare against the Americans. The Minnesota Indians, recruited and organized by Dickson, served the British at the capture of Mackinaw and Prairie du Chien." In other battles also, these Minnesota agents of the Northwestern Company were in the foremost ranks opposing our government.

**JOHN J. ASTOR** The behavior of this great company causes us to rejoice in the success of the American Fur Company organized in 1809. While we were still fighting for our independence, there came to America, a youth of twenty, John Jacob Astor. He was the son of a German peasant and he brought with him the savings of four years' apprenticeship in London. It was a meager sum but with it he established himself in a small fur trading business which grew rapidly. In 1809, Congress authorized him to incorporate the *American Fur Trading Company* and when, in 1816, a law was passed restricting Indian fur trade in the United States to American citizens, the Northwestern Company sold all its posts and outfits in United States to Mr. Astor whose line of forts extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The old English traders were gradually retired and Astor filled their places with stirring young Americans, many of them lads from Vermont. They were full of enterprise and enthusiasm for the development of this portion of their country. Among Astor's employees was Wm. Crooks, his general manager (father of the man for whom Crookston was named) and Robert Stuart, associated with Crooks.

In 1847, the American Fur Company sold its interests to Chouteau and Company of St. Louis. About the same time, Crooks, Borup, and Oakes organized the Northern Fur Company but this firm also sold out soon to a St. Louis company.



## FORT SNELLING

**NEED OF A FORT** The interest aroused by the report of Pike had been quite eclipsed by the stirring events which engaged public attention between 1805 and 1816, but the disputes between the Hudson Bay company and the Selkirk colony in northern Minnesota and the persistent and earnest solicitation of the American Fur Company for military assistance in ridding the territory of British traders who still trespassed our boundaries, led the government to consider the establishment of a military station on the Upper Mississippi.

**BUILDING THE FORT** At last, in 1819, Secretary of War, Calhoun, ordered the fifth infantry under Colonel Leavenworth to proceed from their station in Detroit, Michigan, to the confluence of the St. Peter's and Mississippi and there establish regimental headquarters.

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Note. Leavenworth was compelled to delay a few months before he carried out this order that he might first organize "Crawford County" authorized by the legislature of Michigan territory. By this act, the boundaries of the county were as follows: "On the east by a line running north and south from the portage of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and extending to Lake Superior, thence westward to the Mississippi River." Thus we see that Eastern Minnesota was in 1819, a part of Crawford County, Michigan.

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This, we remember, was upon the grant of land obtained by Pike from the Sioux chiefs in 1805. Now that she was ready to occupy the land, the United States increased the gifts of two hundred dollars value, made by Pike, to others valued at two thousand dollars sent, also in the spring of 1819, by Major Forsyth.

Colonel Leavenworth's company comprising eighty-two persons, arrived at the St. Peter's, Aug. 24, and in September, they were re-enforced by one hundred and twenty men.

All hands fell to work building a cantonment for occupancy during the winter. Plenty of material, wood and stone, could be obtained, which, however, must be prepared and carried, often to a considerable distance by the men. The site of this first encampment was near the present ferry of Mendota. The winter of 1819-20 was very severe; the men were unused to the extreme cold and their food was poor; many became ill with scurvy and before the epidemic passed, forty of the little party had died.

In the spring, waters from the melting ice and snow, overflowed the banks of the rivers endangering the camp; and it was wisely decided to build the permanent quarters on the higher ground to the north where was a beautiful spring giving an abundant supply of pure water. This spring was called *Cold Water* and the later camp received the name, "Camp Cold Water."

In the spring, the soldiers commenced building the fort. The cornerstone was laid September, 10, 1820, but the building was not completed until October, 1822. A saw-mill erected at St. Anthony Falls in 1821 was of great assistance.

Before the completion of the fort, Col. Leavenworth was succeeded by Col. Snelling. General Scott visited the post in 1824, and was so pleased with the energy and ability with which Col. Snelling was accomplishing the erection of the buildings that he recommended that its name be changed from *St. Anthony* (the title given when the corner stone was laid) to *Ft. Snelling*.

At this time, the fort, situated as it was at the junction of waterways leading to the west and north, was very important in controlling local government.

It was then, for protection, surrounded by walls strengthened by corner towers. These walls have since been removed.

**FIRST FLOUR MILL** In 1823, Col. Snelling experimented in raising wheat on lands near the fort and he applied to the government for machinery necessary for a small grist mill. His request was grant-



ed and the mill was built. The flour first ground was so poor that the soldiers refused to eat the bread made from it, but the government continued to operate the mill until 1849, when it was sold to private parties and became the nucleus of the great milling industry of Minneapolis.

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Note. R. I. Holcombe quotes from Mrs. Ann Adams in "Minnesota in Three Centuries" Vol. 2. "Col. Snelling had sown some wheat that season, 1823, and had it ground at a mill which the government had built at the falls but the wheat had become mouldy or sprouted, and made wretched, black, bitter-tasting bread. This was issued to the troops, who got mad because they could not eat it and brought it to the parade ground and threw it down there. Col. Snelling came out and remonstrated with them. There was much inconvenience that winter on account of scarcity of provisions."

## **MAJOR TALIAFERRO**

In order to conduct relations with the Indians, the government found it necessary to employ an Indian agent to reside at or near the military post of Ft. Snelling. In 1819, the same year that Leavenworth journeyed into the frontier with troops, Major Taliaferro was appointed by President Monroe for this office which he held for twenty years. Taliaferro was a young Virginian of Italian descent. He served in the regular army during the war of 1812 and was distinguished for his courage and determination. Hardly could the government have made a better choice for the difficult work at this outpost. While only twenty-four when he took this position, Taliaferro was firm and tactful in his dealings with the Indians; he was determined in his efforts to drive out British traders and he made many enemies among the American traders because he fought persistently the distribution of liquor among the Indians. To Taliaferro belongs the credit of establishing the first farm school in Minnesota. He or-

ganized a government farm near Ft. Snelling where he attempted to teach Indian boys agriculture.

Major Taliaferro kept a careful diary during the years he spent at this post and it is a most valuable aid in determining the history of early events.

## MAJOR LONG'S EXPEDITION

### **PURPOSE OF LONG'S EX- PEDITION**

In 1823, both British and American fur trading companies were carrying on extensive business between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and along the northern boundary of the United States.

The St. Peter's or Minnesota River, which rises in Big Stone Lake, near the western boundary of Minnesota, flows southeast, later changing to a northeasterly course, and empties into the Mississippi a short distance below St. Anthony Falls. Fur traders and others had given such contradictory information concerning this river, the soil and climate of the country adjacent to it, and its easy communication with the Red River of the North, which flows into Lake Winnipeg and thence to Hudson Bay, that this section of the country was an object of especial interest to our government at that time. They wished to secure correct information about the country along the St. Peter's, the Red River, and along the 49th parallel of north latitude. To do this, an expedition was authorized.

Keating says, "It was determined in the spring of 1823 by the Executive, that an expedition be immediately fitted out for exploring the river St. Peter's and the country situated on the northern boundary of the United States, between the Red River of Hudson's Bay and Lake Superior. Major S. H. Long was put in command of the expedition and received orders from the War Department, Apr. 25, 1823, to examine and describe its productions, animal, vegetable and mineral, and to inquire into the character and customs, etc., of the Indian tribes inhabiting the same."

**ROUTE** The party was formed at once and left Philadelphia April 20, 1823. They followed the prescribed route and reached Prairie du Chien on the 19th of June, where they got the first view of the mighty Father of Waters, which is here about half a mile wide. Carver

had given a very glowing account of this village; but according to Mr. Long, it was a small place of only one hundred fifty people, having about twenty dilapidated dwellings, and a few small stores. The fort which was built a short distance from the village, for the protection of its white settlers, was rude and most uncomfortable. It was not well situated as a military post, for it commanded neither the Mississippi nor Wisconsin Rivers. In this locality, chiefly along the Wisconsin River, our party found extensive Indian works, as parapets and mounds. This place was probably the center of a large Indian population in former years.

Here the party divided, Maj. Long and four companions proceeded to Ft. Snelling on foot, while the remainder of the party traveled by boat. With swollen streams to cross, this journey on foot was difficult and rather dangerous.

### **RED WING'S VILLAGE**

On the evening of July 30th, Long and his company saw in the distance, the tops of wigwams; and, coming closer, the barking of the dogs and wild screeching of the children told them that they had reached an Indian village. It was on the present site of Red Wing, which we remember as the village of Chief Shakea (the man who paints himself red). Long waited here for the river party which arrived the following forenoon.

Shakea invited them all to his lodge, where he and his eldest son received them formally, shaking hands with each. When all had entered the lodge, Shakea made a speech welcoming the guests who had been sent forth by the White Father, the President. His remarks were occasionally supplemented by low gutturals of approval from the surrounding braves.

Maj. Long answered this speech, explaining the purpose of his journey, and then distributed presents, chiefly tobacco and powder, among them. The Indians, who had hoped for fire water, were dissatisfied. They called attention to the fact that their faces were painted black, an evidence of mourning for the loss of many friends, and begged for liquor

which was often furnished by whites, as a balm for grief. Maj. Long still refused their request, but convinced Shakea of his kindness in so doing. All then smoked the peace-pipe in turn, after which, according to an Indian custom, its wooden stem was removed and given to Major Long, while Shakea kept the bowl.

**FT. SNELLING** Major Long reached Fort St. Anthony, July 2nd; the trip from Prairie du Chien had been accomplished by the land party in eight days. The river party reached Ft. Snelling later, on the same night, and all remained here about a week. We find in their accounts beautiful descriptions of Minnehaha and St. Anthony Falls, and references showing the courtesies extended by Col. Snelling. Here they exchanged their interpreter for Joseph Kenville, a half-breed of a Dakota band, who was to act also as a guide. He proved intelligent, honest and valuable, as he was able to give them much information about the country, the fur trade, and Sioux tribes, with which he was very familiar.

**MINNESOTA RIVER** The expedition now consisting of thirty-three members, began the ascent of the Minnesota River, which means the river of turbid water. The English called this winding stream the River St. Peter's. They saw but little game, and only a few Indian tribes; but noticed large beds of stone which proved to be valuable granite. After traveling over 300 miles, Long came to Big Stone Lake, the source of this stream. The ridge between the St. Peter's River and the Red River of the North, which flows into Lake Winnipeg, is so low that in times of heavy rains, the water of Lake Traverse has been known to flow into St. Peter's River.

**ALONG THE RED RIVER** From the source of the St. Peter's River, Long, securing carts and horses from some Frenchmen whom he met, passed down the east side of the Red River to Pembina. The journey was

made less monotonous by the large herds of buffalo encountered; sometimes thousands were seen together. The men enjoyed the new experience of shooting these animals and thus provided themselves with the much needed fresh meat which was found delicious.

The country was flat with but few trees along the streams. Indians and fur traders often set prairie fires for different purposes; to destroy traces of passage, to open the country so that buffalos would come, to give friends notice of an enemy's approach, to remove obstacles to the chase. These fires, with the long droughts, prevented the growth of trees, and caused the great prairies.

A camp, called Camp Monroe, was pitched near our northern boundary. The correct boundary line was established and a post was erected having the letters "G. B." on the north side and "U. S." on the south side. On August 8th the flag was raised, the national salute fired, and possession of the land south of this line was taken for the United States.

It was found that St. Peter's fur trade far surpassed that of Pembina, and that the development of this country, although far removed from markets, must be through agriculture.

## **RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION**

Long proceeded from Pembina by canoes to Lake Winnipeg, through Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake River and Rainy Lake to Fort Williams on Lake Superior. He returned to Philadelphia by way of the Great Lakes, reaching his destination October 26th, having made a journey of four thousand five hundred miles in about six months.



## EARLY DEVELOPMENT

### FIRST STEAMBOAT

In 1823, occurred an event of great importance to the little group of settlers at the mouth of the St. Peter's. There appeared one day a steamboat, the *Virginia*, the first to navigate the upper Mississippi as far as our Minnesota boundaries. The Indians, who had never before seen such a craft, believed it to be a great monster and fled in fright; but the white settlers must have rejoiced at this evidence that they were to be once more within the reach of civilization. It was not, however, until 1847 that a regular steamboat line was organized.

### MAILS

In connection with the arrival of the steamboat, let us consider the early delivery of the mails.

Between 1819-23, the mails were carried by soldiers who occasionally traversed the route between Forts Crawford and Snelling. The mail was usually received two or three times during the summer; but during the winter, months would sometimes elapse without a single message from the outside world. After 1823, mail was brought by boat but, even then, it was often delayed.

The first regular mail carrier was James Halpin, an Irish-American and a soldier of Prairie du Chien. He was appointed by Zachary Taylor, then in command at Fort Crawford, to carry mail from that fort to Ft. Snelling, a distance of about two hundred ten miles along the route then traveled. Halpin agreed to make the trip and return in fourteen days allowing about thirty miles a day.

During the winter, he traveled over the river in a dog sled but in the warmer weather, made the journey on foot. There were no bridges, so he swam or waded the streams.

He carried the mail in a beaver skin sack made water proof and besides this was burdened with his blanket, a supply of hard bread and salt, his rifle, and a flint and steel. Dur-

ing the entire journey, he did not pass a single human habitation and seldom met a man.

Halpin continued in this service for an entire year and did not miss a trip. It was however, several years later before mail routes were regularly established. As late as 1848, St. Paul did not hear of Taylor's election as president until January; and it took five weeks for the news of its organization as a territory to reach Minnesota.

**SELKIRK** Great Britain's possessions in northern North America were inhabited largely by Indians, French, and Englishmen employed by the Hudson Bay and and Northwestern fur companies.

Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, and a wealthy Scotchman, urged the necessity of the establishment of colonies in this western territory. Therefore, in 1811, he secured from the Hudson Bay Company, the grant to a tract of land in the Red River region, within the present boundaries of Manitoba. He satisfied the Indians by giving them a small sum of money, and the promise of regular yearly payments. Selkirk secured his first colonists, some sturdy Scotch Highlanders, in 1812. They came over and settled near where the city of Winnipeg now stands.

The Northwestern Fur company vigorously opposed the opening of this country for settlement. They knew that as civilization came to these wilds, the fur bearing animals would be driven away, and thus their prosperous business would terminate. The fur company showed its hostile attitude at once by taking these Scotch settlers prisoners, and driving them farther up the Red River to Pembina. Even there they robbed, murdered, and threatened the existence of the settlement. The conditions for the growth of the colony were indeed desperate; for if they succeeded in getting seed into the ground, great flocks of black birds soon took it from the soil; or if they had been fortunate enough to escape being robbed by the birds, and the growing grain encouraged them for a time, grasshoppers came and deprived them of their



crop. The extreme cold, late planting seasons, and heavy rains which led to dangerous floods were conditions which only the courage of these Scotchmen could survive.

In 1815, down at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, was another settlement of about two hundred people, who had built houses and a mill, and lived by their flocks of sheep and cattle. For the protection of these settlers, a fort was planned and several cannons were brought over from England. The Northwestern Fur Company stole the cannons, and broke up the settlement; but these colonists left, only to have their places filled by new settlers, who in turn were bitterly persecuted. Their horses and cattle were stolen, houses burned, and the governor of the colony was driven to Montreal. Forced to abandon their homes, they did so, but returned again with new settlers, who met the same fate.

The innocent Scotch people, who had been misled by exaggerated reports and circulars sent through the Highlands, now began to realize that immigration to this new land, did not secure for them the new homes or the release from poverty that they had hoped.

## **SWISS IMMIGRATION**

It therefore became difficult to get more settlers from Scotland, so Selkirk turned to the unsuspecting country people of Switzerland. An agent, located at Berne, distributed among these simple mountain peasants, circulars which described the wild, unsettled, new country in a most alluring way.

They were told that the fertile soil, and mild, soft climate assured them of an abundant crop with the necessity of little cultivation; quantities of game and fruits were free to all; herds of wild oxen roamed the region; and horses could be bought from the Indians.

Consequently, in 1821, a number of kind, law-abiding people, mostly laborers and mechanics, journeyed westward and joined a rough German colony on the lower Red River. The character of the German settlers, lack of food, and lone-

liness in the new country made them leave and go farther up the Red River to join the Scotch colony at Pembina. Here they found a scarcity of provisions, but a hearty welcome from a generous, hospitable people.

Much suffering followed until the rivalry ceased between the Hudson Bay and Northwestern Fur Companies. This changed conditions for the colonists and an era of prosperity began in all territory where these companies were engaged.

Although relieved from the oppression of the fur traders, the settlers still had the elements and the natives with which to contend. The Red River Valley passed through many disheartening experiences, in its agricultural development, before it became known as "The Bread Basket of the World."

**SELKIRKS** In 1827, several of the Selkirk colonists  
**GO TO FT.** came across the border of the United States,  
**SNELLING** up the Red River, and down the Minnesota  
River to Fort Snelling, where they were welcomed by Colonel Snelling. They were allowed to settle on the reservation, north of the fort. Here, they again built homes, cultivated the land, and became contented and happy settlers. Thus, before the Americans were pioneers in the west, these refugees from Selkirk's colony were the first white settlers to establish themselves on the frontier.

**HENRY** In 1834, there were practically no white people  
**SIBLEY** in Minnesota except the garrison at Ft. Snelling, the Selkirk Colony, a very few missionaries, and the fur-traders.

The chief centers of the fur trade of the American Company were at Mendota and at Fond du Lac. The chief factors stationed here sent supplies to the outlying posts, licensed the traders, and appointed them to their various districts. Necessity forced these men to give strict fidelity to their superiors and the word of the chief factors became the

law of the territory in spite of occasional opposition through government officials.

A name most prominent in the early history of the state is that of Henry Sibley who came to Minnesota in 1834 as chief factor at Mendota, but who also served with ability, as justice of the peace of the territory west of the Mississippi; in 1848, as delegate to Congress from Wisconsin territory where he secured the passage of a bill organizing the territory of Minnesota; from 1849 to '53, as a delegate to Congress representing Minnesota territory; in 1855, as a member of the territorial legislature; in 1857, as president of the Minnesota Constitutional Convention; from 1858 to 1860, as governor of the state of Minnesota.

Henry Sibley was born in Michigan. His father was a judge and he gave the boy a good education hoping he would be a lawyer but when young Henry showed a disposition to follow a more active life, and longed to venture into the frontier, he did not dissuade him. When seventeen, Sibley became a fur trader at Sault Ste. Marie and he was only twenty-three when he was sent to Mendota to take charge of the business of the American Fur Company from Lake Pepin to Canada.

It was a great undertaking especially for so young a man; but the men who built Minnesota were young men.

Sibley was more than a mere trader. He was very fond of all out-door sports and the Indians gave him the name, Wa zi o ma (Walker in the pines) because he was so fleet and strong a walker. He was hospitable and courteous. His home, built in 1836, became the center of social events, a shelter for the wayfarer whether white or Indian, the center, too, where justice was dispensed and where political measures for the further development of the territory were planned.

This house as it has been restored through the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, still stands. By it, we may be taught much Minnesota history. We may see its great hewn rafters, willow lathed walls, cold cellars

with hooks for hanging venison, deep fire-places, the outside staircase, and the spacious garret for the use of Indians who chose to accept its shelter. These all tell us a story of the manner of life of those early days.

## **WAR BETWEEN OJIBWAYS AND DAKOTAS.**

To the few white settlers gathered about the fort or the trading post, the Indian wars between the great tribes by which they were surrounded, were matters of greatest interest and importance.

In 1827, Flatmouth of Leech Lake accompanied by twenty-four of his tribe, came to Fort Snelling to beg. Fearing an attack by their old enemies, the Sioux, they asked protection of the government. It was promised both by Col. Snelling and Maj. Taliaferro, and they were allowed to camp near the agency. Here they were visited by a delegation of Sioux led by Yellow Bass, whom they received courteously and treated to venison, corn, and maple sugar. The Sioux remained with them until late in the evening, then, with kind farewells, took their departure. Scarcely had they left the lodge, when they turned and fired upon their late hosts, killing eight of them. It was a cowardly deed and the sympathy of the soldiers of Ft. Snelling was with Flatmouth when he told his story. A band of soldiers pursued the Sioux and captured thirty-two of them whom they turned over to the Chippewa for justice. The Indians took them out to the open prairie and freed them but shot them as they fled for safety. Their bodies were scalped and otherwise mutilated, then were thrown over the bluffs into the Mississippi. Flatmouth and his band were escorted on their way home by soldiers until they were at a safe distance from the Sioux; but a long series of tribal wars resulted from this unfortunate encounter. The Sioux were in constant danger from the Chippewas and the white settlers were not safe from their threats and insults. The Sioux retaliated by raids and massacres.

Finally in 1832, the government sent Henry Schoolcraft,

Indian agent of Sault Ste. Marie, to try to make peace among the tribes.

**SCHOOL- CRAFT** The Upper Mississippi was not unknown to Schoolcraft. In 1820, Lewis Cass, then governor of Michigan, organized an expedition to explore this most western county of his jurisdiction and Schoolcraft was a member of this party. They followed the Mississippi to Cass Lake which they determined upon as its source. Schoolcraft did not agree in this decision and we may imagine that this call to return to the Chippewa Country was not unwelcome to him. He was not asked to return to explore but to restore peace; however, he must have read his commission to suit himself, for he proceeded at once to trace the water courses to determine the true head of the great river. Upon its discovery, he asked Rev. Boutwell, who was of his party, for a name meaning *true source*, and was given the words *veritas caput*; *veritas*, truth; *caput*, head. Schoolcraft eliminated the first three and the last three letters of these words and produced the name *Itasca*. He returned to Sault Ste Marie without fulfilling his real mission.

**END OF THE WAR** Reverend Gideon Pond, a missionary living with the Indians, accompanied a band of young Sioux from Lac qui Parle on a hunting trip into the Chippewa Country in 1838. Some of them made camp near the forks of the Chippewa River. Here they were visited by a band of Chippewas. They received their guests hospitably and invited them to spend the night.

When all were sound asleep, the Chippewas rose and murdered all their Indian hosts except one young girl whom they took prisoner. Thus they felt they retaliated for the similar crime of 1829 and were willing to give up the war at least for the time. Their motto seemed to be "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

## **THE TREATY OF 1837**

It was not until 1837 that people began to realize the value of the timber land of Eastern Minnesota and planned to secure it of the Indians. During that year, Gov. Dodge of Wisconsin territory held a council with about twelve hundred Chippewa Indians at Fort Snelling, an assembly which Taliaferro said was the largest gathering of Chippewas ever held in the territory. During this convention, the tribe ceded to the United States all pine lands along the St. Croix river system.

Later, during the same year, a delegation of twenty-six Sioux Indians from Kaposia, Red Wing, and Winona accompanied by H. H. Sibley and Maj. Taliaferro, went to Washington and there ceded to the government their agricultural lands east of the Mississippi and the islands of the river. In payment for these lands, the United States gave the Indians about \$500,000. A large part of this sum was invested for the tribe, the interest being paid them annually.

Previous to this treaty of 1837, the land now included in Minnesota was owned and held by the force of the red men, and the white men were able to settle here only by their permission. Now, as the ownership of the land changed from savage to civilized hands, conditions improved rapidly. The country was opened for settlement, and the hardy pioneer cut his way through the forests or plowed his way through primeval sod.

The new era of progress began in Minnesota and the natives were gradually expelled from the land.



## NOTES

**INDIAN PIPES** The Sioux Indians had some very beautiful pipes which were made by the squaws. The stem was sometimes two or three feet long, made flat, usually about two inches wide and half an inch thick. It was often painted with blue clay, which, after being exposed to the atmosphere, turned green. The ornaments were porcupine quills, birds' feathers and dyed hair of the deer. The bowls were of red stone. The designs were thoughtfully wrought and displayed much artistic skill. The Chippewas had pipes, quite similar, but showing variety in style.

### STORY OF WENONA.

When the passengers on board our steamers of today are traveling down the Mississippi River, and through the beautiful waters of Lake Pepin, they are sure to hear some one exclaim: "There is Maiden's Rock!" And if one's curiosity prompts him to ask why it is so called, he is apt to hear the Indian legend connected with it. Maj. Long's party, upon reaching the spot nearly one hundred years ago, had the same story told to them as a true romance in Indian life. It is as follows:

In the Indian village of Keoxa, lived *Ta tanka Manne* or *Walking Buffalo*, with his many sons and beautiful daughter, *Oholoaitha*.

*Oholoaitha*, being the eldest daughter, according to the Sioux custom, was called *Wenona*. She had that grace and charm, which made her a favorite with all the Wabasha tribe. Even her grandfather, the old chief Red Wing, indulged her many whims and fancies.

The young braves of the village vied with each other in attempts of noble valor, that they might win her approval. Many came, decked in gay feathers, with painted faces, and dressed in their best buffalo skins, as suitors for



her hand; but Wenona found time for only one, a hunter of their tribe.

The young lovers, roaming through the forest or sitting beside its sparkling streams, thought only of each other. Their happiness was complete and they planned soon to wed. When the hunter presented himself to Wenona's family, and told of their hopes, he was rejected, and driven from the village.

Wenona's parents favored a young warrior who was popular with the tribe also on account of his bravery in defending the village when it was attacked by the Chippewas. Her brothers and father praised him, recounting his deeds and triumphs. This did not interest the maiden. She artfully argued for the hunter; that she loved him; that he would be with her always to protect and provide meat for her while the warrior would be away much of the time.

When her family saw that they could not persuade her, and that argument was of no use, they sought to compel her. She begged to remain single, saying if she could not be allowed to live in happiness with the hunter, she refused to be made unhappy by marrying the warrior whom she loved not.

A party was formed to go up Lake Pepin to get the blue clay found along its banks, and used for coloring by the Indians. The day was clear and fine, and Wenona went with them. The warrior was again encouraged to try to persuade her to be his bride; but he was obstinately refused. This made her family angry and after chiding her for her ungrateful conduct, they told her that they would not listen to her longer, and she should be obliged to do as they requested. They immediately began to prepare the feast to celebrate the wedding ceremony.

Wenona said, "Is this the love my father and brothers bear for me? They have separated my lover from me and now torment me with one of their own choice!"

She sighed for the hunter, who roamed alone in the forest with no squaw to prepare his wigwam or cook his food.

As her friends were busy and rejoicing over the occasion soon to be celebrated, Wenona withdrew from them and climbed to the high rock overlooking the lake. When she reached its top, she called to them and chided them for their unkindness to her. She then looked out over the water, and began singing her death song.

Frantically, her friends and family cried to her to stop, only to listen to them. Some ran up the side of the cliff, trying to reach her before it was too late; others remained at the foot of the cliff to catch her body. Her father called, "O, Wenona, I forbid that you be further annoyed; all preparations for this wedding will cease if only you will come back to gladden your father's heart!" In vain did they call. Wenona finished her song, paused, leaped from the cliff, and fell dead at their feet.

A true Indian story—showing that the heart of the savage beats as lovably for the one it loves, as does that of its civilized friend.

### LOVE TALE OF ST. ANTHONY FALLS.

A love tale is connected with St. Anthony Falls. In this valley many moons ago, a young Dakota Indian married an Indian maiden of whom he was very fond. With their two children they were abundantly blessed, and dwelt in peace and happiness.

The brave was a hunter and because of his prosperity and ability to supply his friends and members of his tribe with fish and game, they were drawn to his lodge, and favor was bestowed on him. He soon began to accept this as a great honor, and when the members of his tribe suggested that he, like other great red men, should have more than one wife, his ambition led him to be persuaded, and he secretly married the daughter of an influential man of the village.

He disliked to offend his worthy helpmate, and used all his powers of diplomacy when breaking the news to her. He artfully told her, how he loved her more than any other woman; but how his fame and popularity among his people,

brought many hardships on her and to relieve her from this arduous toil, he, for her sake, had decided to take a second wife. This wife, he assured her, was always to be a subject of her will.

Not doubting his solicitation in her behalf, she told him how well and strong she was; she rehearsed the tale of their love and happiness in the past. Seeing that his argument failed, the hunter finally told his wife, that words were unnecessary as he had already married and his second wife must be received. If she could not come with favor, then she should be accepted without it.

The faithful squaw's life of peace and harmony was changed and gloom and despair took its place. Under the cover of the darkness of night, taking her two children, she fled to the wigwam of her father. She stayed here until he and his friends went up the Mississippi River for their annual winter hunt. She accompanied them. The Indians spent several months killing the animals of the forest, and in the early spring, with their canoes loaded with skins, glided back down the river.

They camped at St. Anthony Falls. The next morning, as they were about to pursue their way, the squaw put her children into the canoe, leaped in herself, and paddled down the stream. Above the noise of the water, could be heard her death song in plaintive accents, bewailing the loss of her husband's affection, and reciting his past love and their former happiness.

Nearer and nearer to the falls she came, and as the last note of the dirge died away, the canoe with its three passengers, was swept over the precipice to be lost forever from the sight of man. The Indians tell us that often in the early morning, her sad voice is still heard haunting this beautiful waterfall.

## THE LEGEND OF PIPESTONE.

Ages ago, a great flood came upon the Indian lands. The lowlands were covered and all the tribes gathered for

refuge upon the Coteau des Prairies, Mountain of the Prairies.

Still the waters continued to rise until the people knew that even here they were not safe. As they waited for death, a great war eagle circled above them and came so near to a beautiful Indian maiden that she grasped his foot. Clinging to it, she was carried by the great bird far above the flood to a ledge at the summit of a distant mountain and so was saved.

Her people were all drowned and the Gitche Manito (Great Spirit) turned their bodies into red stone; but the maiden married the war eagle and their children became the ancestors of the present Indian tribes.

The Mountain of the Prairies with its red stone composed of the bodies of all races has ever since been sacred to peace; from this stone, the peace pipes are made and they are decorated with carvings representing the eagle and with eagle's feathers.

## CHAPTER VI

# SETTLEMENT AND ORGANIZATION AS A TERRITORY 1839-1858

The news of the ratification of these treaties of 1837 was received at Fort Snelling, June 15, 1838, and immediately, claims were staked out by citizens who had eagerly awaited this opportunity. One of these early settlers was Joseph Brown who filed a claim on the St. Croix, laid out the town-site of Stillwater, and built the first house there.

Franklin Steele and Angus Anderson started before day-break, so fearful were they that some one else would forestall them in a claim they had in view on the north side of St. Anthony.

**JOSEPH BROWN** Joseph Brown was born in Maryland  
**AND** in 1805. When fourteen, he ran away  
**STILLWATER** from home and came to Mendota with  
the detachment of troops who arrived  
here in 1819. He was a typical pioneer and was in turn, a trader, a lumberman, a prominent politician, and an editor. He married a Sioux and this fact gave him a certain influence over the natives.

Brown had a trading post at Grey Cloud Island, about twelve miles below St. Paul. When the treaties of 1837 were ratified, he realized the fact that settlers would soon arrive

to take up the rich timber lands along the St. Croix and that the natural location for a village would be at the head of the St. Croix Lake. Accordingly, he with several others, took a pine claim on the river and in 1839, he laid out a town site which he called Dakotah, at the head of the lake, and half a mile above the original site of Stillwater. Brown also began the erection of a large log house, the first within the present limits of Stillwater. Two or three other cabins were built in 1840.

In 1843, a company called the Stillwater Lumber Company was organized and erected a saw-mill on the shore of the St. Croix. The name "Stillwater" was suggested by John McCusick, a member of this Company, in memory of his former home in Maine; and the name soon came to be applied to the village as well as to the mill. In 1844, the Lumber Company did considerable business; a hotel, and a general store with lumberman's supplies were built, and in 1846, a post office was established.

Lumber from the Stillwater mill was used in building the first frame houses of St. Paul including the Central House, which was our first "Capitol."

Major Brown aided in staking out the first road from St. Paul to Prairie du Chien and also the first from Mendota to Lac qui Parle.

He was a member of the Wisconsin legislature in 1840, '41 and '42 and was a member of the Territorial Legislature of Minnesota, most of the time from 1849 to 1857; he was also a member of the Constitutional Convention. His was a most eventful life, and he was so closely associated with our early history, that Brown County is most appropriately named for him.

## **FRANKLIN STEELE**

Another pioneer who anxiously awaited the signing of the treaty of 1837 was Franklin Steele. Franklin Steele was born in Pennsylvania. President Jackson advised him to come west and in 1838, he secured an appointment as post sutler for Fort



Snelling. He was then twenty-four years of age.

Realizing the magnitude of water power in the Falls of St. Anthony, as soon as the treaty was signed by the Chippewas, he hurried to take up a claim on the north side of the river adjoining the Falls. In 1848, he built here the first mill with the exception of the old government mill and so was the real founder of the great milling industry of Minneapolis.

Mr. Steele was closely associated with the early development of Minneapolis and of the state. He built the first suspension bridge across the river just above the falls; he urged Congress in 1855, to extend the pre-emption laws over a portion of the military reservation; it finally did so, thus opening up a large part of the area now Minneapolis, west of the river. Mr. Steele was also chosen a member of the Board of Regents of the State University in 1851 and contributed largely toward the establishment of the preparatory department.

### **EJECTION OF RED RIVER REFUGEES**

We have read that a few families of the Red River refugees had been allowed by Col. Snelling to settle lands near the fort.

By Pike's treaty of 1805, this had become government land and the settlers believed they were entitled to make homesteads here as on any government land; but the successors of Colonel Snelling looked upon them as intruders and were not disposed to treat them kindly. Finally, in 1837, Major Plympton, commandant of the fort, and certain of his associates urged the government to reserve a *portion of land* near the fort as a military reserve and to eject from it all other persons.

The reasons given for this ejection was the fear that the timber about the fort would be insufficient for the needs of both fort and settlers, and the fact that settlers near the fort supplied Indians with liquor.

The latter claim was undoubtedly true but it was never proved that the Swiss settlers were the ones at fault; how-



ever, these "Pilgrims of Minnesota" were again obliged to leave the little homes they had built and the farms they had laboriously prepared for cultivation. Some of them left Minnesota and located at Prairie du Chien; others settled east of the Mississippi near Fountain Cave and within the present limits of the city of St. Paul. Here, they were soon joined by other settlers and the nucleus of the capital city was formed.

### **NAME OF NEW SETTLE- MENT**

The early name of this settlement had a curious derivation. Near Fountain Cave, also located an intemperate, ill-looking old man called Pierre Parrant; he afterwards held a claim lying between the present streets of Jackson and Minnesota and back from the river to the bluffs.

Still later, he held a claim on the flats below Dayton's Bluff. In each of these places, he built a hovel where he sold liquor to Indians and to traders in defiance of the laws of the fort. This Parrant had one good eye, the other was so ugly to look upon that he was called *Pig's Eye*.

Partly in fun, a young man of the settlement, when writing a letter gave as his address, *Pig's Eye*. The answer, when it came, repeated the name and the settlement was for some time known by this ugly title derived from the nick name of one of its most undesirable citizens.

### **THE MILITARY RESERVATION**

In 1839, there arrived the expected order allowing the military reservation and giving its boundaries.

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Note. These were: "Five miles up the Minnesota (St. Peter's) from its mouth; thence seven miles to include Lake Harriet; thence to Lake of the Isles; thence above St. Anthony Falls and across the Mississippi, about five miles; thence southward to the Mississippi below Fountain Cave—the last line passing near Seven Corners in St. Paul."

This reservation included a large part of what is now St. Paul and Minneapolis. It was granted in opposition to several remonstrances sent by settlers and by prominent men of the territory who felt that the request for the reservation arose from greed of men connected with the post, who wished perhaps to gain control of lands about the Falls where they had already made claims.

In any event, this driving the settlers from the reservation prohibited the building of a city at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers which was its most probable location; and led to the founding of two cities on the Mississippi at the extremities of the reservation but as near as might be to the fort from which they hoped for protection from the Indians, and a market for their products.

### **LIQUOR TRAFFIC**

From the time of the earliest fur traders, liquor had been included in the list of articles supplied by the merchants and carried by the traders to exchange with the Indians for their valuable furs. The crime and misery resulting from this curse can hardly be described. An entire nation who, before the coming of the whites, had been self-supporting and contented, became cruel and lazy, ready to dispose of guns, blankets, food, anything, for this curse brought among them by the race who should have aided civilization. The Indians congregated about the early settlement of St. Paul where liquor could be obtained and wandering away, often fell from the bluffs, and were frozen, or were devoured by wolves. Often intoxicated bands were a menace to the isolated settler. Thus our capital held in its early history, a most undesirable reputation.

### **CHAPEL OF ST. PAUL**

There were, however, also elements working for good. In 1839 Bishop Loras of Dubuque visited Mendota and became interested in the settlers there and felt their need of church services.

Accordingly, the next spring, he sent Father Lucien Galtier as a missionary into the field. He established a church

at Mendota and, in 1841, wishing to extend his work among the settlers on the right bank of the river, encouraged the people of Pig's Eye to build a little chapel which he dedicated to St. Paul. The landing near the chapel was soon called *St. Paul's Landing* and finally the name *St. Paul* came to be applied to the entire settlement.

James Goodhue, an early resident of the town, commented on this in a New Year's address in 1850:

"Pig's Eye, converted shalt thou be like Saul;  
Arise, and be, henceforth, St. Paul."

### **FIRST POST OFFICE IN ST. PAUL**

In 1846, a regular line of steamboats was established on the Mississippi and, during that same year, a post office was opened in St. Paul with Henry Jackson as first postmaster. Williams thus describes the first post office: "Out of some old packing cases, or odd boards, he constructed a rude case about two feet square, and containing sixteen pigeon-holes. These were labelled with initial letters."

### **BATTLE OF KAPOSIA**

Meantime the deadly feud still existed between the Chippewa and the Sioux tribes in spite of all interventions for peace. When in the spring of 1841, three Dakota Indians were killed near Fort Snelling by three lawless Chippewa desperadoes, Little Crow with a band of Kaposia warriors attacked the enemy at Saint Croix Falls, while another party from the Sioux tribe sought revenge at Pokegama in the Ojibway territory. They did little damage, but aroused the hostility of that tribe.

In 1842, a war party consisting of forty Chippewas from Fond du Lac, started from their part of the country to make trouble for the Sioux enemy. They first went to council with the Chippewa band at Mille Lacs. The time spent there was one of feasting and Indian revelry, then, accompanied by members of this tribe, making a party of one hundred

warriors, they decided to attack the band of Big Thunder (Little Crow No. 4).

They passed along the St. Croix valley reaching Pig's Eye in the evening. Here they camped for the night, intending to raid the settlement by daylight. The following day, scouts went out to find the exact location of the Sioux. The scouts ran across a half breed whom they recognized as a Chippewa, and asked him questions concerning the Sioux. This half-breed, who had come from Selkirk Colony, was now employed at the Red Rock Mission. He instantly returned to the mission, which sent out two Sioux runners to notify the Kaposia Indians of the enemy's approach.

Francois Gammel, a French Canadian, who was married to a Sioux, lived on the lowland at Pig's Eye. Creeping along through the brush, the Chippewas came across Gammel's hut, and being blood thirsty, and eager for an attack, they shot and killed three persons engaged in hoeing corn on the Gammel place.

These shots were heard by the Kaposia Sioux, who, having also received notice from Red Rock, shook off the drunken sleep in which they were indulging, aroused themselves to action, and met the Chippewas on the flats at the foot of the bluff. Here was one of the fiercest Indian battles which lasted several hours. The soldiers from Ft. Snelling, who were sent out to stop the attack, arrived in time to see the Chippewa forced to retreat and driven through the timber toward Stillwater.

## **THE TERRITORY ORGANIZED**

In May, 1848, Wisconsin was admitted as a state with the St. Croix as its western boundary; thus the part of Minnesota previously a county of Wisconsin was left out of the state.

As no other provision had been made for the government of that area between the Mississippi and the St. Croix, it was supposedly still the "Territory of Wisconsin." As such, a convention regularly called, elected Henry Sibley as terri-

torial delegate from that territory to Congress. After some difficulty, he was allowed a seat and devoted himself during the session to urging upon Congress the passage of a bill then before the house, to organize the territory of Minnesota. On the very last day of the session, the bill passed, March 3, 1849.

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Note. Williams' Hist. of St. Paul. "A communication in the first number of the Pioneer graphically describes the reception of the news of the organization of the Territory," under the caption, "The Breaking up of a Hard Winter:" "The last has been the severest winter known in the Northwest for many years. During five months the communication between this part of the country and our brethren in the United States has been difficult and unfrequent. A mail now and then from Prairie du Chien, brought up on the ice in a train drawn sometimes by horses, sometimes by dogs, contained news so old that the country below had forgotten all about it. When the milder weather commenced and the ice became unsafe, we were completely shut out from all communication for several weeks. We had to wait for the arrival of the first boat to learn whether our Territory was organized and who were its Federal officers. How anxiously was that boat expected! The ice still held its iron grasp on Lake Pepin. For a week the arrival of a boat had been looked for every hour. Expectation was on tiptoe.

Monday, the ninth of April, had been a pleasant day. Toward evening, the clouds gathered, and about dark commenced a violent storm of rain, wind, and loud peals of thunder. The darkness was only dissipated by vivid flashes of lightning. All of a sudden, in a momentary lull of the wind, the silence was broken by the groan of an engine. In another moment, the shrill whistle of a steamboat shrilled the air; another moment, and a vivid flash of lightning revealed the welcome shape of a steamboat just rounding the bluff, less than a mile below St. Paul. In an instant the

welcome news flashed throughout the town, and, regardless of the pelting rain, the raging wind, and the pealing thunder, almost the entire male population rushed to the landing. At length the news was known, and one glad shout resounding through the boat taken upon shore, and echoed from our bluffs and rolling hills, proclaimed that the bill for the organization of *Minnesota* territory had become a law."

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**Boundaries of territory:** The boundaries were the same as at present except that it extended on the west to the Missouri River making its area about double what it is at present.

### **SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS OF MINNESOTA**

And now Eastern and Western Minnesota were united under one territorial government. Eastern Minnesota had previously been under the organized government of the Northwest Territory, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Western Minnesota had been in the Territory of Louisiana, and in Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Iowa became a state in 1845 with her present boundaries and, until 1847, western Minnesota had no organized government.

### **GOVERNOR RAMSEY**

In April, 1849, Alexander Ramsey was appointed by President Taylor to be our first territorial governor. Mr. Ramsey was then thirty-four years of age. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and a staunch Whig, and had served two terms in Congress. From the date of his appointment until his death, he was one of the foremost citizens of the state.

### **POPULATION OF TERRITORY**

We have seen that the boundaries of Minnesota were greatly extended at the time of her territorial organization; but in all this 166,000 square miles, the census shows us that in 1849, there were only 4,680 people. 317 of these



were connected with the army and 637 were at Pembina. St. Paul boasted a population of 840 and Stillwater, 609. This was a meager population for so great an area but with the announcement of its organization as a territory, immigration increased rapidly. E. S. Seymour in his "Sketches of Minnesota," tells us of St. Paul at this time: "Everything here appeared to be on the *high pressure* principle. A dwelling house for a family could not be rented. The only hotel was small and full to overflowing. While travelling in Minnesota, I made my headquarters in St. Paul, where I occasionally tarried a day or two at a boarding house, consisting of one room about 16 feet square in which 16 persons, men, women, and children contrived to lodge."

When Gov. Ramsey arrived with his wife in May, he was the guest for some time of Mr. Sibley of Mendota.

## **FIRST NEWSPAPER**

Among the early arrivals in the new territory was James Goodhue, who came to St. Paul from Wisconsin and established here the first newspaper of Minnesota, The Minnesota Pioneer. Mr. Goodhue was a typical pioneer, energetic and enterprising with a considerable fund of good humor and common sense.

The present Pioneer Press is a direct descendant of the Minnesota Pioneer.

Note. Mr. Goodhue says in his first issue: "We present and issue this number of the Pioneer in a building through which out-of-doors is visible by more than 500 apertures; and as for our type, it is not safe from being *pied* on the galleys by the wind."

Another notice describes further his difficulties:

"Stop That Rooting Under Our Floor! We are no Jew, but a gentile, or the rooting nation under our editorial sanctum, instead of respectful notice with our pen, would get punched with a sharp stick. Not that we would find fault with the pigs, for this is all owing to their bringing up. But really, our equanimity is somewhat ruffled, if



our chair is not jostled, by the movement of their hard backs under our loose floor."

**FIRST ELECTION** In July, Gov. Ramsey divided the territory into seven council districts and ordered the first election, Aug. 1. The first territorial legislature met in the Old Central House of St. Paul, Sept. 4, 1849. It consisted of nine councillors and eighteen representatives.

**FIRST LEGISLATURE** Some of the actions of this first legislature are especially noteworthy. They founded the Historical Society of Minnesota, and they organized a system of free schools. Every township containing not less than five families was to be considered a school district. It had hitherto been customary in every newly organized territory, to grant one section in each township for school purposes. Minnesota was the first territory in which this grant was doubled. Owing to this fact we have one of the largest school funds of the United States. With an area of over 53,000,000 acres, this grant has already receipted us over \$20,000,000. Of this only the interest is expended for school purposes being distributed to the counties according to school attendance. Besides this grant, liberal areas have been allowed for a state university with an agricultural college and experimental farms.

**FIRST SCHOOL** In 1846, Dr. Williamson, then a missionary among the Dakota Indians wrote Ex-Governor Slade of Vermont, president of the National Popular Educational Society, asking him to send to Minnesota a teacher for the white children of the village of St. Paul. In response to this call, in 1848, came Miss Harriett Bishop to St. Paul and Miss Amanda Horsford to Stillwater. In 1849, Miss Backus arrived at St. Anthony, also as a teacher.

Miss Bishop began her work in St. Paul in July, 1848, and thus describes her first school house: "Some wooden

pins had been driven into the logs across which rough boards were placed for seats. The luxury of a chair was accorded to the teacher, and a cross-legged table occupied the center of the loose floor." Only five pupils were enrolled at the opening of this school; but in the spring of 1849, a second school house was built, another teacher, Miss Mary Scofield, arrived; and ample means were provided for the instruction of 150 pupils. Harriet Island of St. Paul was named in honor of Miss Bishop.

## **MISSIONARY WORK**

Missionary schools had, before this, been established among the Indians in various parts of the state. In 1834, Samuel and Gideon Pond came to Minnesota from New England as missionaries. They established a mission at Lake Calhoun. Here also, they built a school and sought to teach agriculture. Other similar missions were established about 1835, at Lac qui Parle and Traverse des Sioux by the Presbyterian Board, with Dr. Riggs and Dr. Williams as missionaries. The Swiss also sent two men into this field, Messrs. Denton and Gavin, who located at Red Wing.

These early missionaries were most zealous workers. At their schools they taught English but devoted a great deal of time, also, to a study of the Dakota language. Portions of the Scripture and many school books were translated into the Indian tongue. They brought looms and taught the Indian women to weave. Probably the first cloth manufactured in Minnesota was some linsey-woolsey woven by Indian girls at Lac qui Parle mission in 1839. The missionaries also brought plows and cultivated small farms, while they tried to teach the Indians to do the same. Their experiments proved the agricultural possibilities of the state. The traders, in most instances, opposed the education of the Indians and often stirred up opposition to the missionaries among the Indians themselves. Their cattle were sometimes killed and their fields destroyed. Besides these discouragements, they met the usual hardships of the pioneer.

In the spring of 1837, Mrs. Denton heard that her husband was very ill at Ft. Snelling. With two Indian women as companions, she made her way to him up the river, about a hundred miles, in a canoe, sleeping two nights on the snow covered ground.

This is only one instance of many that could be given showing the courage of these pioneer women.

The mission at Lac qui Parle was the most successful, largely through the help of Joseph Renville, chief trader of that region. A church was built here in 1841 and its bell was the first in Minnesota. In 1846, Little Crow invited Dr. Williams to establish a mission at Kaposia.

When, after the treaties of 1851, the Indians were removed to their reservations, Drs. Williams and Riggs went with them to continue their labors; other missionaries remained to preach to the incoming white settlers.

Note. The father of Joseph Renville was a French fur-trader who spent many years in Minnesota. When he became old, he felt the need of someone to hoe his corn and prepare his food and, according to the custom of the country, he purchased a wife. She was of the Kaposia band of Sioux.

The white settlers in Minnesota were then very few and, until little Joseph was ten years of age, he had seen no white man but his father. At that time, the Indian mother deserted her white husband for one of her own tribe and the elder Renville, remembering the associations of his own youth, took his little son with him across the wilderness to the settlements of Southern Canada. Here he left the boy under the care and instruction of a Catholic priest and returned alone.

The priest was kind and a faithful instructor and taught young Joseph the principles of the Christian religion and to speak French.

In a few years, the elder Renville, knowing that death was near, sent for his son to return. Renville's life thereafter was among his mother's people; but he was honored

by whites as well as Indians for his courage, honesty, and sound counsel. His knowledge of French made him valuable as an interpreter.

Dickson, the British officer, employed him as a *coureur des bois* and, while he was still a youth, he had guided a canoe from Pokegama Falls to St. Anthony Falls and knew well the trail from St. Anthony to the Missouri.

He was Pike's interpreter in 1805 and Pike was so well pleased with his services that he recommended him strongly as United States interpreter.

When the war with England began in 1812, Renville was persuaded by Dickson to take up arms against the United States. He was given an appointment as captain in the British army and with other Indian warriors from the upper Mississippi, engaged in the frontier warfare against the Americans.

Renville was with Little Crow when in 1815, at Drummond's Island, he met a British officer who gave them presents and thanked them for their participation in the war. Little Crow pushed the gifts aside with the words; "You persuaded us to make war on a people we hardly knew. You make peace for yourselves and leave us to get such terms as we can. We will not take your gifts but hold them and yourselves in equal contempt."

After the war, Renville lived in Canada for awhile working for the Hudson Bay Fur Company but he returned to Minnesota and for many years had an important trading post on Lac qui Parle (The Lake That Talks). He it was who invited Dr. Williams to establish a mission there. He had married a Sioux by Christian rites and desired that his children should be educated. Until his death, he was a staunch supporter of the mission.

**TRANSPORTATION** Most of the early pioneers of Minnesota settled along water courses, and the birch bark canoe of the native was a convenient means of transportation. In 1823, as already noted, the first steamboat made its way to the mouth of the St. Peter's. This was followed by others; a trip to the "Wilds

of the Upper Mississippi," became a favorite pleasure excursion for people of the lower river valley. In 1851, a regular steamboat route was established from St. Louis to St. Paul and Stillwater. In these early days, steamers were also able to ascend the Minnesota as far as Mankato; and in 1860, the Burbank Company organized a line of steamboat transportation on the Red River of the North.

The means of inland transportation was always more difficult to find. A pioneer in this line was Norman Kittson.

**PEMBINA CARTS** The Red River Valley had, from the time of earliest exploration of Minnesota, furnished great quantities of furs. Prior to 1844, these were carried to the Atlantic *via* the Hudson Bay route, a long and difficult journey. In 1844, Norman Kittson in connection with the American Fur Company of Mendota, established a fur-trading post at Pembina in the extreme northwest corner of Minnesota. This village then consisted of a few hundred French half-breeds. Kittson collected here, in 1848, about two thousand dollars worth of furs which he transported to Mendota in carts. The carts returned loaded with goods. This was the beginning of a trade which lasted until about 1867 when the St. Paul and Pacific Railway was built. In 1855, about fifty thousand dollars worth of furs were carried over the route. At that time the trade was about at its height. In 1857, five hundred carts came over the trail to St. Paul. Her fur trade for that year amounted to \$182,491.

The Pembina cart was a curious vehicle. It was made entirely of wood and leather, had two wheels and carried from six to seven hundred pounds, and was drawn by an ox or pony. The carts left Pembina in a train early in June and were usually a month or six weeks in making the journey. Sometimes one driver managed several carts by tying each pony to the tail of the preceding cart and guiding the leading animal.

As the wheels were never greased, the screeching axles of these primitive wagons gave warning long in advance, of the approaching train.

The drivers were half-breeds called *Bois Brules*, dressed in odd, half-civilized garments with bright sashes and barbaric ornaments.

When the party camped for the night, the carts were arranged in a great circle with the poles toward the center and camp was made within the circle. Thus was arranged a fairly good fort. The encampment was carefully guarded against the attack of marauding savages or wild beasts.

The Red River trade was a very profitable one for Mendota and later, for St. Paul; and the arrival of the Pembina carts was an important event to the city merchants and traders.

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Note. Norman Kittson was a Canadian and a grandson of a noted explorer of Revolutionary days who explored the Lake Superior region and Manitoba and Saskatchewan districts.

In 1830, when Mr. Kittson was a boy of sixteen, he was employed by the American Fur Company and stationed at a trading post between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, where he remained for two years. In 1834, he came to Ft. Snelling as sutler of the post and later established a trading post at Cold Spring near the Fort. In 1843, he became a partner in the American Fur Company having charge of all their business at the head waters of the Minnesota, and along the British line. He made his head quarters at Pembina and there collected furs to send to Mendota.

In 1854, he removed to St. Paul and became partner in an establishment called "The St. Paul Outfit" which was a supply house for traders.

Mr. Kittson was a member of the Council of the Minnesota Legislature for four years, 1852 to 1856. Two items given in the Pioneer of that time, help us to appreciate



somewhat the difficulty with which he represented that distant district. In 1852, a correspondent from Sauk Rapids writes: "The honorable members elected to the House and Council, from Pembina, viz: Messrs. Kittson, Roulette, and Gingras, arrived at Crow Wing on Christmas Eve, in sixteen days from home, stopping two days at Red Lake on the way. Each had his cariole, drawn by three fine dogs, harnessed tastily, with jingling bells, and driven tandem, at 2:40 at least, when put to their speed. They usually traveled from 30 to 40 miles per day and averaged about thirty-five miles. They fed the dogs but once a day, on the trip, and that at night, a pound of pemmican each. On this, they draw a man and baggage as fast as a good horse would travel, and, on long journeys, they tire horses out."

Again, in 1853, the Pioneer notes that Messrs. Kittson, Gingras, and Roulette, members from Pembina, walked the entire distance to St. Paul (about five hundred miles) on snow shoes and over snow two feet deep.

It was largely through the enterprise of Mr. Kittson that the Northwest was opened for development and in recognition of that fact, two counties, Norman and Kittson, were named for him.

Later, Mr. Kittson was associated with J. J. Hill in building the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway.

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**ROUTE** The first regular stage route in Minnesota was  
**STAGE** established by Amherst Willoughby and Simon Powers between St. Paul and St. Anthony in 1849. The following winter, they opened a line from St. Paul to Prairie du Chien; and, in 1854, another from St. Paul to Shakopee. In 1851, they put on the first Concord coach brought to Minnesota. This was a heavy closed vehicle built to withstand the rough roads and heavy loading of those days.



In 1853, another coach line was opened from Stillwater through Minnesota and Iowa to Dubuque and thence to Galena, Illinois, to the nearest railroad. This trip was advertised to take four days. A line in opposition to this was opened two years later and ran from St. Paul through Lakeville, Owatonna and Austin to Dubuque; another line was organized from St. Paul to Superior, Wisconsin.

At this time, (1855) eight coaches left St. Paul daily for Minneapolis, Crow Wing, Mankato, New Ulm, Hudson, Wisconsin, and Stillwater. These stages were often open wagons with two or four horses. Their trips were begun in the very early morning; sometimes ten miles or so were traversed before breakfast. The wagons were piled high with freight; roads were ungraded; streams were often unbridged and delays were frequent. Sometimes it would be necessary to spend a night at a frontier cabin. The journey was worse during the winter when it was not unusual to be snow-bound at some wayside for days.

**EXPRESS** The first express line was started by James Burbank in 1850 and ran from St. Paul to Galena, Illinois. Mr. Burbank also carried mail over this route. His business was at first very light and he was able to carry all the mail in one bag and all the express in one pocket; but it grew so rapidly that, the following year, the North Western Express Company of which Burbank was a member, was organized and offices were established in all the larger villages.

## OCCUPATION WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

### **TREATY OF TRAVERSE DES SIOUX**

Before 1850, very little was known of the territory west of the Mississippi River. As there were no railroads, the only entrance to this wild, fertile, prairie land was by canoes up the Minnesota River or by the Indian trails; but, as soon as steamboats began making excursions on this stream, the beauty of scenery, and the undeveloped wealth of this Sioux territory became generally known to the people of the east.

The flow of westward immigration had increased rapidly so that the unoccupied area was coveted by the settlers who crowded into St. Paul and St. Anthony. The authorities at Washington were pressed on every side to secure this territory from the Sioux tribes who held and guarded it well. Hon. H. H. Sibley and Gov. Ramsey went to Washington and their persuasion, together with a memorial from the legislature, led to the appointment of a commission to negotiate a treaty. Gov. Ramsey and Col. Luke Lea, the national commissioner of Indian affairs were appointed as the commissioners.

The fur trading companies, who had formerly opposed any terms that would lead to the settlement of the land were now in favor of the western cession; animals had been hunted so mercilessly for their pelts that their numbers had suffered a remarkable decrease and the returns of the fur trade had correspondingly dwindled; the years immediately preceding had been marked by destitution among the savages and the companies claimed that the Indians owed them about five hundred thousand dollars. A provision of the treaty arranged for the payment of the "just debts" of the Indians, out of the money received from the government, and the traders were hopeful.

Traverse des Sioux (crossing) on the Minnesota River about two miles east of St. Peter and the natural Capital of the Sioux, was selected as the meeting place of the tribes

with the whites. The Indians were reluctant to make the treaty but finally, July 23, the upper Sioux sold all their lands to Minnesota for \$1,665,000, except a reservation of twenty miles along both sides of the Minnesota from its source to the Yellow Medicine. On August 5, a similar paper was signed by the lower Sioux at Mendota. The lower reservation was from the Yellow Medicine to New Ulm. This territory included about 21,000,000 acres.

**TREATY** The Sioux Indians owned the long narrow  
**1858** strip of territory on both sides of the Minnesota River. This included some of the most fertile land in the state; but was little used by the savages who lived mainly on the south side of the river. The land owned by the government had been rapidly taken by settlers from eastern states and the increasing immigration led to a fervent and frequently expressed desire for the "wasted land" of the Sioux.

Major Brown, Sioux agent, used all his influence to bring about a treaty of cession of this territory. Some of the chiefs and leading men of the bands of Sioux were persuaded to go to Washington, where they were royally treated. June 19, 1858, a treaty was negotiated which gave to the government a strip of land north of the Minnesota, ten miles in width and extending from the western boundary to a few miles east of St. Peter, including about eight hundred thousand acres.

The price paid was \$30 per acre, and from the sum to be received, the Sioux must pay the ever hungry trader debts to the amount of \$140,000.

As soon as this land was opened for settlement, its occupation began; and rapid strides were made in its development.

**EARLY** The conclusion of the treaties of 1851  
**SETTLEMENT** and 1858 with the subsequent removal of the Indians to reservations, threw open a great territory to settlement.

The northern portion with her rich deposits of iron ore and her magnificent forests, was out of the reach of steam-boat transportation and hence was not settled so early as the more accessible southern portion.

Southern Minnesota, between the Minnesota river and the Iowa boundary, is an elevated plain or table land. Along the rivers are often high bluffs but back of the water courses extend broad undulating prairies interspersed with belts of forest. Numerous lakes dot its surface and water power is abundant.

The land was ready for the plow and yielded an abundant harvest the first season of its cultivation. Never did a land give fairer promise to the immigrant and it is not strange that, in these years of a mad rush of immigration to the gold fields of the far west, many turned aside to the quiet vales and fertile prairies of Minnesota, there to find a safer, surer road to prosperity.

About 1855, land districts were established and land offices where titles could be obtained to pre-empted lands were opened at Brownsville, Red Wing, Winona and Minneapolis.

**IMMIGRATION** The years 1855, '56, '57 were the three great years of immigration in our territorial history. The census of 1855 announced a population of 53,600. This number was doubled in 1856. The sale of public lands which had been 314,000 acres in 1854 rose to over one million acres in 1855, and to over two million acres in 1856. The greater portion of these settlers came from the Middle States, the Northwestern States and from New England. From this great increase in the sale of land, it is evident that many came intending to stay and make here their permanent homes, but an unusually large proportion remained in the villages.

**SPECULATION** The country at large was wild with speculation. With the great rise in population, it seemed a natural conclusion that the price

of land should rapidly advance. Speculators were everywhere; towns were platted in anticipation of coming railroads; town lots were sold at exorbitant prices; money was scarce; every one was in debt; and rates of interest were as high as 3 per cent a month on notes which, if not paid at maturity, promised even 5 per cent a month.

**PANIC OF '57** Suddenly, with the failure of some large eastern corporations, the bubble burst; and cities like St. Paul and Minneapolis were left without money to carry on business. There was a sudden revulsion among the people away from speculation and toward the cultivation of the soil.

Thousands of farms were opened; experiments in raising wheat, corn and other grains were surprisingly successful; and, in about ten years, Minnesota had a surplus of over forty thousand bushels of wheat for export.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT OF MINNEAPOLIS

St. Anthony Falls had been the site of a government flour mill as already noted and in 1847, a saw mill was built there and the town site of St. Anthony was laid out. The first settlers of Minneapolis were mostly lumbermen from the east, particularly from Maine. They were honest and industrious, typical pioneers. In 1850, however, St. Anthony had only about five hundred forty inhabitants. The settlement nearest the falls was called Upper Town while a collection of cabins on the present university campus and near a hotel owned by Mr. Cheever was called Lower Town or Cheever Town. This hotel stood on the old territorial road.

On the west side of the river a little settlement called *All Saints* was started by Colonel Stevens who built there for himself and Mr. Steele, the first frame house of Minneapolis. In recent years this house was removed to Minnehaha Park by the school children of Minneapolis.

Charles Hoag of All Saints devised for it a name *Min-*

*ne ha polis*, meaning "City of Laughing Water." In 1855, this town had a population of over three thousand; a suspension bridge connected it with St. Anthony; and it boasted a newspaper, a sawmill, post office, government land office, and three organized churches.

In 1872, Minneapolis and St. Anthony were united under one city government with a population of twenty thousand.

Even in the early territorial days, we find the founders of Minneapolis anxious to provide schools for their children, and in 1856, the Board of Education selected the block where the City Hall now stands as the site of a Union School building and they built here "a double brick school house, the best school building north of St. Louis" and about two-hundred fifty pupils enrolled as students during the first year, 1857.

Unfortunately this building was burned in 1864, but the Washington was erected on the same site and opened in 1867. Within a year, there were twenty-seven teachers employed in the city and the system which has since achieved such notable results in the educational world was well begun.

Minneapolis was from its beginning a manufacturing center, and in 1868, her manufactured products were valued at five million dollars. Of these flour was chief. The milling industry is treated elsewhere.

## SETTLEMENTS OF SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

The first territorial legislature had created eight counties in Minnesota; Itasca, Wabasha, Dakota, Wahnahatah, Mankato, Pembina, Washington, Ramsey, and Benton. Of these, two, Wabasha and Dakota, embraced all the territory lying south of the Minnesota River. Some of the earliest settlements of these counties were made at Winona, Red Wing, and Wabasha.



The first white settlers who visited this region were missionaries and fur-traders.

For several years, the Swiss maintained as one of their "foreign missions" a station under Messrs. Denton and Gavin on Lake Pepin. In 1842, Father Ravoux constructed a log building for a church, and floated it on a raft from St. Paul to Wabasha where it was set up with ceremony and used for several years. In 1850, Congress constructed a military road from Mendota to Wabasha, a distance of about seventy-five miles. Trading posts were frequent along the river. A half-breed, La Bathe, held several; one on the present site of Wabasha, one where Minnesota City now stands, and another at the mouth of the White Water near Bald Bluff.

**WINONA** Explorers, traversing the prairies west of Winona, Red Wing, and Wabasha saw the possibility of the location of a large commercial city at a point on the river affording a good steamboat landing and a distributing center for outlying districts.

Wabasha's Prairie appeared to answer these qualifications but there was a tradition among the Indians that this valley was sometimes entirely overflowed; hence the first actual settler, W. B. Bunnell, located his claim at Homer, 1849, believing it the better site: and Nathan Brown, arriving the same year, located at Dacotah.

The first to select Wabasha Prairie as a town site was Capt. Orrin Smith, a steamboat captain, whose many years of experience navigating the Mississippi had led him to doubt the story of the flooding of the valley. In 1851, Capt. Smith made his claim in this valley including both the upper and lower steam boat landings. Other settlers of the same year were Silas Stevens, George Clark, and Edwin Hamilton.

An organization known as "Western Farm and Village Association" was established in New York in 1851. Its purpose was to aid its members to leave the city and form a



colony in the lands opened for settlement in the west. The founder and president of the association, William Haddock, and one companion, exploring for a favorable location for this colony, arrived at Wabasha's Prairie February, 1852. After encamping here for a night, they proceeded up Straight Slough on their skates under the impression that this was the Mississippi, and followed it to the valley of the Rolling Stone. An opening in this valley seemed to Haddock an ideal place for the location of his colony and, reaching an agreement with the settler who had already taken a claim here, he took several adjacent claims for the Association and began the business of laying out a town plat.

During the summer that followed, nearly five hundred settlers consisting of members of the Association and their families arrived at this settlement which they named Minnesota City. A post office was established, religious services were held, wheat was planted, a good harvest gathered, and the colony seemed well under way; but the failure of any boats to navigate the Slough even during high water and an epidemic of fever through which several lost their lives, so disheartened the community that most of the settlers abandoned their new homes. Some sought employment in St. Paul or La Crosse; others settled in the little village now growing about Captain Smith's steamboat landing.

The summer of 1852, brought immigrants with every boat to this village. Like St. Paul, it was crowded to its utmost in the attempt to accommodate new settlers. Abner Goddard, built that summer, a large shanty which served as a hotel, the first hotel of Winona. This hotel was an important building of the time; the first school assembled here; here church services were held; and it was the scene of many social affairs.

A post office, Montezuma, was established at the Prairie but this name was not approved by the settlers and in 1853, it was changed to Winona.

In 1854, the county of Winona was created and it had then about eight hundred inhabitants; but in 1855, with

the final removal of the Indians to a reservation and the establishment of a land office at Winona, the lands west of the village were thrown open to settlers. So great an immigration followed that in January, 1855, the population of the village alone was three thousand.

Some of the industries that still thrive in the city were begun. A steam flour mill, two steam saw mills and a steam planing mill were put in operation.

A city charter was granted in March, 1857. Winona, a gateway for the shipping of agricultural products raised on the fertile plains at her west, with her facilities for lumber manufacture and river transportation, had a steady growth. When railroad commerce in a measure superseded that of the river, she still thrived as a railroad center.

**RED WING** Red Wing, at the head of Lake Pepin, received much of the early river commerce. This city is besides, in the center of a deposit of clay suitable for bricks, tiles and cement. In the later years of the state's history, the manufacturing of these products has contributed largely to the growth of the city.

**SOUTHEASTERN CITIES** In the midst of fertile prairies lying south and west of Winona were settled thriving villages where now are the cities of Rochester, Owatonna, New Ulm, Mankato, Albert Lea, and Austin. These settlements received many of the immigrants of 1855-'57 and, depending almost entirely for their progress upon the agricultural interests of the surrounding country, have steadily grown as those interests thrived.

Their founders were usually of the sturdy stock of New England or of the Middle Atlantic States but later immigrants sometimes came directly from European states, particularly Scandinavia.

**NEW ULM** The early settlement of New Ulm was unusual. A German association of Cincinnati, in 1854, sent out explorers to find a location for a town in the new west, and they selected the present site of New Ulm. They laid out a town plat comprising a large area, and many members of the association arrived during 1855 and 1856. For a time New Ulm was governed as a community but later, it applied for and received a city charter.

**ATTEMPT TO REMOVE CAPITAL** An interesting incident of this period was the attempt made during the Territorial Legislature of 1857, to remove the capital from St. Paul to St. Peter. The movement had many friends and a bill to effect the change passed both the House and the Council; in the latter, by a vote of eight to seven. It was then sent to a committee for final enrollment.

Joseph Rolette from Pembina was a member of this committee. He probably had no especial interest in defeating the measure other than a general friendliness for St. Paul; but, on the next day after the bill had been submitted to the committee, Rolette was absent and the bill could not be found. A sergeant-at-arms was unable to find the missing member and a copy of the bill was procured. The president of the council refused to sign this, though the governor did so. The following July, the Supreme court decided that the law was not passed.

Rolette had been quietly hiding in an upper room of the Fuller House during their search and appeared immediately upon the adjournment of the session.

## CHAPTER VII

# ORGANIZATION AS A STATE

### 1858-1860

**ENABLING ACT** In 1857, our territorial delegate to Congress, Hon. Henry M. Rice, introduced a bill to enable the people of Minnesota to organize a state and apply for admission into the Union.

The enabling act was granted February, 1857. By this act, the western boundary which, under the territorial government, had extended to the Missouri River, was to be restricted to the line of the Red River of the North. This act embodied grants for public lands for common schools, a university, and public buildings and also a grant of about 4,500,000 acres to aid in the building of railroads.

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION** The legislature of 1857, called a Constitutional Convention to proceed under the enabling act to prepare a constitution which must be presented to congress with the request for admission as a state.

Some of the ablest men of the territory were elected to this convention. Among them were Wm. Holcombe (Father of the Normal School System), Colonel Gorman, J. R. Brown, James Norris, A. D. Balcombe, Lorenzo Babcock, and L. C. Walker.

They were all men of high standing in their respective communities, but, unfortunately, party feeling was strong; and Democrats and Republicans met in separate bodies dur-

ing the greater part of the session. They finally wrote a constitution which both parties accepted and submitted to Congress in January, 1858.

## **ADMISSION AS A STATE**

We remember that this was during the period when the admission of states from the North and the South was anxiously balanced lest the equality between the two sections be disturbed in the Senate. A steady opposition met the bill for the admission of Minnesota on that account; and it was not until May, 1858, that it was passed.

In June, Governor Sibley was inaugurated with William Holcombe as Lieutenant Governor.

While the bill for the admission of Minnesota was still before Congress, the state legislature had met and elected Messrs. Rice and Shield as our first senators.

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Note. Henry Rice, born in Vermont in 1816, was a descendant of Warren Hastings, famous in English history. He studied law about two years in his native state and in 1839 came to Ft. Snelling as sutler. Later, he became an Indian trader in the Upper Mississippi valley in the land of the Chippewas. He became very familiar with the great area of Northern Minnesota and was well known among the Indians. He was of great assistance to the government in procuring the Indian treaties of 1851.

Subsequently, he removed to St. Paul and was there identified closely with all plans for the development of the city and the territory.

In 1853 and again in 1855, he was our delegate to Congress and worked faithfully for the establishment of post-roads, postoffices, land offices, and other means of development.

In 1857, Mr. Rice was elected as one of our first senators.

Note 2. James Shields, one of our first senators, led a most eventful life. He was born in Ireland, 1806, of a family notable in Irish history.

When sixteen, he left Ireland expecting to make his home with an uncle in America; but he suffered shipwreck off the coast of Scotland, being one of only three survivors. Not daunted, he started the second time, and reached the continent only to find that his uncle had died. He became a sailor, but during an accident was badly injured, and was brought to a hospital in New York where he was obliged to remain three months. Both his legs had been broken, but, directly on his recovery, we find him among the volunteers for the Seminole war.

At the close of this war, he settled in Illinois. Here, while serving as a schoolmaster, he studied law and was later elected to the state legislature where he served four years. He was an associate of Lincoln and Douglas, and became an intimate friend of the former though Lincoln often told the story of an early quarrel between them when they threatened to fight a duel.

When the war with Mexico opened, Shields entered as a brigadier general. He won distinction at Vera Cruz, at Cerro Gordo and at Chapultepec, where he commanded some South Carolina troops; and he was the first to carry the Stars and Stripes into the ancient castle of the Montezumas. For his courage, he was made major general: and was presented with two beautiful swords, one by Illinois valued at three thousand dollars and the other by South Carolina valued at five thousand dollars.

In 1849, he was elected senator from Illinois and served six years. In that congress, having an unusual number of notable members, he was counted an important personage.

Mexican soldiers were given land grants by the government and in 1855, General Shields came to Minnesota to locate a claim and became one of the founders of Faribault.

He was then about fifty years of age, five feet and nine



inches tall, graceful, dignified and of distinguished bearing, a good statesman and a fine orator. No wonder that he found many ready admirers.

General Shields fought also in the Civil War bringing upon Jackson at Winchester, his first and only defeat. After the Civil War, he made his home in Missouri, from which state he was also elected United States Senator. His residence in Minnesota was not of long duration and he was rather a citizen of all United States than of any one state but in the "Hall of Fame" in Washington, Minnesota is represented by General Shields.

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**STATE SEAL** As every state must have an official seal for its papers and documents, one must be designed for the new state, Minnesota. At the request of Hon. Chas. F. Lowe, a member of the Constitutional Convention, a beautiful design was prepared by Mr. Buechner of St. Paul. When it was formally presented to the legislature for adoption, it was considered an admirable and appropriate emblem, and was sent to the Governor who returned it with his signature of approval in July 1858.

It was an unpleasant surprise to these members, when several months later the new seal was first used, to see, not the one adopted, but one credited to Rev. E. D. Neill. This was devised from the old territorial seal and presents an idea of progress. In the foreground is the farmer turning the virgin soil with his plow, while his gun and powder horn lie within reach; speeding from him toward the west is the native savage; and St. Anthony Falls can be discerned in the distance. The motto "L'Etoile Du Nord" (the North Star) is above the picture; the whole design is encircled with the words "The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota:" and underneath is 1858, the date of its admission. Although not formally adopted by the state legislature, this seal has continued in use, and in 1907 a new die of the same design was made to replace the much worn first one.



## **NEED OF MEANS FOR TRANSPORTATION**

With the settlement of claims distant from the great rivers of the state, there arose again necessity for better means of land transportation.

Farmers in Olmsted, Dodge, and Mower counties carried their wheat and other products to the nearest Mississippi River port, usually Red Wing, Lake City, or Winona, a distance sometimes of sixty miles.

Most of this hauling was in the late fall sometimes with ox-teams. The men had less comfortable foot-wear than now, usually heavy cowhide boots, and no overcoats. Their routes lay over poor roads and almost insurmountable hills, across unbridged rivers and all but impassable sloughs. Usually several neighbors undertook the journey together in order that they might assist one another in times of difficulty. Undoubtedly, they made the trip as jolly as they could but we can see that with such difficulties of transportation, a crop of forty bushels of wheat to the acre was not an unmixed blessing, while the price received for it was only about thirty-five cents a bushel.

## **AID FOR STATE RAILROADS**

Under the provision of state aid for railroads in the enabling act, four companies were organized; their routes were planned; and they were promised each one hundred twenty sections of the allotted lands upon the completion of each twenty miles of road. It was supposed that the companies could raise money upon this promise of aid but the plan did not succeed. They asked the legislature of 1857-8 for further aid. A section of the constitution then awaiting the approval of Congress, forbade the loan of the credit of the state in aid of any individual or corporation but the people clamored for the railroad; and the legislature finally submitted to the electors an amendment providing an exception to this rule and allowing a loan of the state's credit for the purpose of aiding railroad construction, to the amount of five million dollars. The amendment

passed with a large majority and, in accordance with it, special Minnesota state railroad bonds were issued and an arrangement was made by which a road should receive one hundred thousand dollars of these state bonds upon the grading of a ten mile stretch and one hundred thousand dollars more in bonds when the road was completed with cars running. The railroads were to pay interest on the money thus loaned and were to secure the state by giving mortgages on their property. However, a sufficient amount of grading was done to entitle the companies to receive over \$2,000,000 in bonds; although not a mile of road was ready for traffic. The state saw that this plan of road-building was an absolute failure, and work on the roads was abandoned for the time. The whole country was suffering from the great financial panic of 1857 and Minnesota was deeply involved.

**NEED OF REFORM** People generally felt that the first legislature had been very extravagant.

Upon Gen. Sibley's retirement as Governor, he is quoted as saying: "The embarrassed condition of the state finances and impoverished situation of the people imperatively demand retrenchment in expenditures."

The state then had afloat \$184,000 in scrip and \$250,000 in state bonds, but had actual cash to the amount of six cents in the treasury. Taxes were delinquent and could not be collected.

"As the end of their labors drew nigh, in dog-days, it became known that there would be a residue of some ten thousand dollars of money appropriated by Congress for territorial expenses. It seemed a pity not to keep that money in Minnesota. After a variety of proposals consuming much time had failed to receive concurrence, the two houses agreed to a compromise by which six thousand dollars was appropriated for stationery and three thousand, five hundred dollars for postage, the members to share equally." (Folwell's History of Minnesota.)

Thus to their lasting discredit, these legislators allowed

personal greed to overcome good statesmanship.

## **SECOND**

### **LEGISLATURE**

It was with a keen sense of the need of reform in state administration that the voters chose an almost entirely new staff of state officers for the next term.

Alexander Ramsey became governor; and among the legislators are names that since became prominent in our state history; John Sandborn, Gen. Wilkinson and Ignatius Donnelly.

Governor Ramsey was so determined upon retrenchment that he cut his own salary from two thousand five hundred dollars to one thousand five hundred dollars.

This legislature enacted many laws tending toward reforms which were immediately beneficial, and have been valuable as precedents.

There were stringent provisions for the collection of all taxes, a practical road law, a law regulating the business of insurance companies, and another for the organization of companies for the smelting and manufacture of iron, copper and other minerals. To encourage these latter industries, then not well established, no taxes should be levied on their out-put. The interest rate on contracts between individuals was lowered to 12 per cent.

In 1860, the constitution was again amended by expunging from it that clause which allowed the state to issue state railroad bonds to aid the building of roads. At the same time, another amendment was passed which forbade the payment of such bonds or their interest until the people by vote signified their desire that this should be done.

This virtually repudiated the state railroad bonds and, even though the purpose for which the bonds were issued had failed and proved to be lacking in business forethought, still their repudiation placed the state in a questionable position. Finally, in 1881, under Governor Pillsbury, a way was found to settle this old difficulty; the bonds were redeemed and the credit of the state was preserved.

## CHAPTER VIII

# CIVIL WAR, 1860-65

**SECESSION** Lincoln was elected president in November 1860. The Southern states having already lost equality in the senate through the admission of Minnesota, California, and Oregon, felt that, in his election, they saw the death blow to slavery if they remained in the Union. They resolved to secede.

Before Lincoln's inauguration, seven states, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas passed acts of secession.

The seriousness of this action was scarcely comprehended in the North, until on the 14th of April, 1861, the Confederates fired upon Ft. Sumpter, a Federal fort off Charleston harbor.

**FIRST REGIMENT RESPONDS** Consternation was everywhere. When the news of this bombardment reached Washington, Governor Ramsey was in that city. He immediately visited the capitol and offered the president the services of Minnesota. Lincoln accepted the offer and Gov. Ramsey telegraphed Lieut. Gov. Ignatius Donnelly to call for volunteers. The response was immediate. More men than the call had asked were eager to enlist, and by April 27, the ten companies of the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers were mustered in at Ft. Snelling. Willis Gorman was appointed their Colonel.

Their time was spent in drill until June 22, when, after a short ceremony closing with a prayer and the Hebrew benediction: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace," pronounced by Rev. Edward Niell, they embarked for Prairie du Chien from thence to take their place in the battle lines of the Army of the Potomac.

## **MINNESOTA VOLUNTEERS**

The great struggle which now commenced, called for sacrifice from every corner of the Union and no state gave more liberally nor courageously than Minnesota.

With our comparatively scant population of 170,000 in 1860, we mustered eleven full regiments of infantry besides other organizations of cavalry, sharpshooters, heavy and light artillery. In all, 22,970 men were sent forth.

We cannot trace here the history of each regiment. Only one, the Third, surrendered. The story of all the others is the story of steadfast, cheerful courage and honorable discharge of duty.

No story of Minnesota would be complete, however, without an account of a few instances of exceptional heroism.

## **FIRST, AT GETTYSBURG**

The First Minnesota which had already won an enviable record, gained greatest renown at the battle of Gettysburg.

On the morning of July 2nd, 1863, the second corps of which the 1st Minnesota was a part and the 3rd corps under command of Gen. Sickles were stationed at the left of the cemetery famous on that battlefield and at the gateway of the Northern position. About noon, Gen. Sickles advanced about half a mile to the front near the base of Little Round Top. Here he was attacked by the heavy forces of Longstreet and Hill and, after a gallant fight, was forced to give way and retreat. This retreat began in order; but

before they reached a position in the rear of the 1st, the troop was in disorder and panic. On came the victorious division in glad pursuit. It seemed for a time that our regiment, standing between them and their prey; was about to be overwhelmed, and its important position occupied by the enemy.

"What regiment is this?" asked Gen. Hancock, commander of the division as he rode up at full speed.

"First Minnesota," replied Col. Colville.

"Charge those lines," was the command.

The need was urgent. Reserves were coming forward on the run, but the enemy must be held back until they could reach the position.

Every one of this little band of two hundred sixty-two men knew that the charge ordered meant the probable sacrifice of the regiment and death or wounds for all, but there was no hesitation. In perfect line they swept down the slope in face of a fearful storm of lead from the whole Confederate front, straight for the center of the opposing band. With leveled bayonets, they rushed upon it and held it at bay while the reserves came up and occupied the endangered position in the rear.

Lieu. Wm. Lochren in his story of the First Regiment comments on the charge thus: "What Hancock had given us to do was done thoroughly. The regiment had stopped the enemy and held back its mighty force and saved the position. But at what a sacrifice! Nearly every officer was dead or lay weltering with bloody wounds, our gallant colonel and every field officer among them. Of the 262 men who made the charge, 215 lay upon the field, 47 were still in line, and not a man was missing. The annals of war contain no parallel to this charge. In its desperate valor, complete execution, successful result, and in its sacrifice of men in proportion to the number engaged, authentic history has no record with which it can be compared."

Can we wonder that while many a frontier home was desolated by this terrible sacrifice which war had made nec-



essary, every true Minnesotan thrills with pride at the name of this gallant regiment.

Another encounter of which Minnesota is justly proud occurred on the field of Chickamauga.

## **SECOND REGIMENT AT CHICKA MAUGA**

The Second regiment left Fort Snelling October 14, 1861, and was assigned to the army of the Middle West. They took a considerable part in the actions at Shiloh, Corinth, and Perryville. On September 19-20, 1863, was fought the stubborn battle of Chickamauga. Both sides fiercely contested the field during the 19th; on the 20th, Rosecrans, with the right and center divisions broken and in great confusion, retreated from the field. Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga, to cover this retreat and save the retiring army from terrible disaster, threw his division, the left, across a ridge called Snodgrass, thus intercepting the pursuit of the victorious Southern division. From early afternoon until evening he held that ridge, meeting onslaught after onslaught of the enemy but yielding not at all.

At the front of Thomas' division was placed the Second Minnesota and, inspired no doubt by their unflinching leader, they held their post through the long, hot afternoon with throats parched with thirst, forcing back rank after rank of the enemy until the slope before them was covered so thickly with dead and wounded that they could scarcely see the ground. Gen. Thomas, appreciating the difficulty of the position, sent an aide to their commanding officer, Colonel George, asking how long they could hold on.

"Till we are mustered out of service, sir," answered the Colonel, voicing the grim determination of his men.

When twilight finally stole over the dreadful field, Thomas' detachment moved back to Rossville and finally rejoined Rosecrans at Chattanooga.

The brigade commander said in his official report of



the battle: "It is a noticeable fact that the Second Minnesota regiment had not a single man among the missing nor a straggler during the two days' engagement."

**FOURTH**     The Fourth regiment was mustered in, in the  
**AND**             fall of 1861, with John Sandborn as colonel,  
**FIFTH**           but several of the companies were occupied  
                     among the Sioux until the following summer.  
They were then sent to Corinth, Missouri, where they were met by the Fifth Regiment.

In Oct. 1862, Price and Van Dorn made a stubborn fight to drive Rosecrans from Corinth and succeeded in breaking through our lines. Col. Hubbard, in command of the Fifth Minnesota, threw his regiment upon the invading force and drove them back.

Rosecrans wrote of this encounter: "Veterans could hardly have acted more opportunely and effectively than did the gallant Fifth Minnesota on that occasion."

The members of the regiment were proud to recall the gallant behavior of their young chaplain who won special distinction on that field. His name was John Ireland, now Archbishop of St. Paul.

We all remember the fearful battle of Nashville fought during the last year of the war, when an entire Southern army was not merely defeated, but was absolutely destroyed as an army. Four Minnesota regiments, the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth, were in this battle and were all in the Second and Third Brigades when they made their final great charge against the Confederate left, putting it to rout and ending the battle.

Thus the regiments sent out by Minnesota, composed of frontiersmen inured to hardship, accustomed to out door life, resourceful in emergency, and steadfast in danger, won grateful recognition among the troops of the Union.

The women left at home did their part. Only one who went through that period, can appreciate the anxiety, privation, and sacrifice of the time.

When, in September, 1865, the Minnesota troops were mustered out and returned home; 2,587 of our boys were left on the Southern fields.

The uprising of the Sioux Indians in 1862, added its horror to that of the Civil War.

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### IGNATIUS DONNELLY.

Note 1. Ignatius Donnelly, often called "The Sage of Nininger," was one of the most able politicians, profound thinkers, fluent speakers, and finished writers which the State has produced.

Born in Philadelphia, November 3, 1831, he there studied law and was admitted to the bar. He removed to Minnesota in 1857 and settled on a farm at Nininger, a few miles west of Hastings. He was twice elected Lieutenant Governor, was sent as a representative to Congress, and later served in the state legislature. Those who ridiculed his advanced views of popular education and the preservation of timbered lands lived to see their practical import.

He was foremost in the Farmer's Alliance movement and a leader in the Populist Party. He set forth his views in the *Anti-Monopolist* which he edited for several years.

Among his ablest works are *Atlantis Ragnarok*, *The Great Cryptogram*, and his published addresses. His later years were spent in farming and literature. He died in Minneapolis, January 1, 1901.

### JOHN IRELAND

Note 2. John Ireland, Roman Catholic Archbishop of St. Paul, was born in Burnchurch, Kilkenny County, Ireland, September 11, 1838. With his parents he came to the United States, settling in Chicago in 1849, where they remained three years, then coming to the village of St. Paul. When he was fifteen years of age, he went to France, where he studied for eight years, and upon returning to St. Paul was ordained a priest. He was consecrated

bishop in 1875, and Archbishop in 1888.

Archbishop Ireland, besides being a beloved leader in the Catholic church, is a man of national reputation, and world wide influence. It has been fittingly said: "No other American churchman has so combined the devotion of the parish priest and the wisdom of the Statesman."

He served as Chaplain of the Fifth Minnesota Regiment during a part of the Civil War, organized the first Total Abstinence Society in 1869, was president of the St. Paul Law and Order League, National Chaplain of the Grand Army of the Republic, president of the State Historical Society. He was a factor in advocating a settlement with Spain in 1898, and in the adjustment of the trouble in the Philippines.

His style and eloquence give him popular place among the orators of the day while his books, "*The Church and Modern Society*," and "*Lectures and Addresses*" show his ability as an author.

### REV. EDWARD NEILL

Note 3. A leader most heartily beloved and respected by the early settlers of Minnesota was Rev. Edward Neill. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1823 and came to St. Paul in 1849. Here he erected the first Protestant church of Minnesota. In 1855, he organized the "House of Hope," a Presbyterian church of St. Paul.

Mr. Neill served as the first State Superintendent of Public Instruction and was also secretary of the State Historical Association for several years.

When the First Minnesota went South, he went also and served as their chaplain for two years when he became U. S. Hospital Chaplain.

In 1864, he became one of President Lincoln's private secretaries and later served in the same capacity for President Johnson.

He was sent to Dublin as consul in 1869 and remained

about two years, at the end of which time, he returned to Minnesota.

Rev. Edward Neill was one of the founders of Macalester College and has written several books, among them a History of Minnesota.

## CHAPTER IX

# INDIAN OUTBREAK, 1862

**INKPADOOTA** *Inkpadoota* (Scarlet End,) was a native of the Cannon River country, and a member of the Wahpakoota band until the murder of its chief, Tah sah gee. Inkpadoota was suspected as the murderer and he and his friends were compelled to flee from the enraged tribe. They sought refuge with Black Eagle's band in the Blue Earth region, until they escaped to Northern Iowa, where they committed the blackest crimes and lived by plunder of their victims.

**MASSACRE OF SPIRIT LAKE** In March 1857, Morris Markham, a settler at Spirit Lake, Iowa, returned to his home, after an absence of a few days, to find all the inhabitants of Spirit Lake and Okoboji murdered by Inkpadoota's' renegades. Markham warned the settlers at Springfield (Jackson) in Southwestern Minnesota. This small village, having only fifteen able-bodied men, feared a similar fate. They gathered in two houses for protection while awaiting aid from Ft. Ridgely.

**ATTACK ON SPRINGFIELD** Inkpadoota with only a small band fell upon Springfield, March 26th, and killed several people; the remainder of the colony fled to Iowa towns. Two messengers made a trip through the deep snow to Agent Flaudreau at the Lower Agency. Officers Capt. Bernard Bee and Lieutenant Alex-

ander Murry with forty-eight men in sleighs drawn by mules, were sent to aid the western settlement, but it was found deserted. Inkpadoota's villains had fled to Dakota.

## **SHIUX SEEK INKPADOOTA**

In June, 1857, the annuities of the Sioux were withheld by the Commissioner of Indian affairs until they should kill or capture Inkpadoota's band. With no sympathy for the outlaws: but a knowledge of their own innocence, the Sioux tribe felt this to be an unjust trick, prompted by the fear felt by the whites, of this small Indian band.

Little Crow, a friend of the settlers, led one hundred Sioux in pursuit of the offenders. He caught part of the band, and returned two women prisoners; but the agent demanded the destruction of the entire band before any money should be paid the Dakotas. Fortunately, through a temporary change in the Indian Commissioner, this decree was revoked and the annuities paid to the tribe.

This episode may have been one of the first causes of the Minnesota massacre which followed, although Inkpadoota fled farther west and did not return to Minnesota during the Indian war. As late as 1876, he lived in eastern Montana but later fled to Manitoba where he died.

## **LOCATION OF TRIBES**

When the Civil War began, and Minnesota was offering her strongest and best men to serve in the regular army, the Indians of the state were located on their several reservations. The Chippewas occupied the northern lake region; a tribe of Winnebagoes were in Blue Earth County; while the Sioux were consigned to a long, narrow strip of territory along the Upper Minnesota River. West of Lake Traverse, in what is now North Dakota, were over four thousand Sissetons and Wahpetons.



**CONDITION OF THE TRIBES** In 1857, Joseph R. Brown was made agent of the Dakota tribe. Brown, a man of good reputation, had lived among the Sioux for forty years, securing their confidence and friendship. His influence brought about many reforms in their dress and manner of living. Many had discarded the blanket for the white man's dress; and frame houses, supplied with chairs, beds and stoves, were slowly taking the places of the Indian tepees.

Doctors and missionaries aided in Indian reforms; while the government supplied the "Farmer Indian" with oxen, wagons and machinery. Many of the bands were self-supporting when, in 1861, Thos. J. Galbraith of Shakopee became Sioux agent.

**CAUSES OF THE INDIAN WAR** The Sioux were not reconciled to the treaties of 1851 and '58 which compelled them to settle on reserves after they had forfeited large tracts of land for a small sum. The Indians obtained goods from the traders on credit. Payment for these *just* or *unjust* debts was collected by the traders when the government paid the Indian annuities. The rascality of some of these men and the presence of soldiers to keep order during the yearly payment, aroused a feeling among the Indians, that they were being cheated of their money. These suspicions gave rise to an unfriendly feeling toward the government and the white settlers.

In 1861, crops had been poor; the following winter was a severe one and many of the Indians were suffering from want of food and clothing. Agent Galbraith did what he could to relieve them, but his sources of supply were limited. Flour and pork were provided; but this did not last long. Fifteen hundred Wahpetons and Sissetons, who were destitute, having eaten all their horses and dogs, were fed from the agency from December 1861, to April 1862. The "Farmer Indians" worked during the winter cutting and hauling fence rails and logs, and for this received supplies

from the agency; but the band sorely needed the money due them in 1862, so that when the payment which was expected in June, was delayed by the authorities at Washington until the following August, the turbulent feeling existing among them was increased.

### **FIRST ACT OF HOSTILITY**

Unwise traders had teased the Indians by telling them that their money had been spent, and there were to be no more yearly payments. This increased their hatred and distrust, so that Agent Galbraith found it hard to keep peace with them. Presents of tobacco and provisions served to quiet them but for a time.

At Yellow Medicine, the upper agency, a band of Sioux, who were assembled to wait for their money and received only promises, became fiercely savage and with wild whoops dashed through the warehouse door, carrying away flour and provisions.

### **MURDER AT ACTON**

August 17, four Indians from Rice Creek were in Meeker County hunting. One of the party took some eggs from a hen's nest, found in a fence corner in the village of Acton and one of his companions who asked him to return them as they belonged to a white settler, was tauntingly accused of being a coward and afraid of the white man. To settle this controversy, it was agreed that they should go to the home of the owner and show their bravery by murdering him. They went to this settler's house and, as a pretext, asked for liquor. Being refused they became violent and killed five of the settlers.

Then, realizing the enormity of their crime, they made their escape on stolen horses and fled for protection to their own band. After a mad race of forty miles they reached the village and told their story. The chief and leaders decided to ask Shakopee for advice as to whether it should be left for the white man to punish the offenders, or allow

this attack to be considered as a declaration of war. Shakopee said they would go to Little Crow's settlement to hold council. Although it was then night, the Indians at once departed, and reached the lower band before morning.

Little Crow had lost much of his influence with the red men, but he now saw the chance to regain his leadership. The Indians had not forgotten the failure of the whites to capture Inkpadoota, and they knew too, that when even our untrained men were being called to aid the government, the Civil War was serious. They were quick to appreciate that this was a convenient time to fall upon the unprotected settlers, and decided to begin a general massacre of the whites.

**ATTACK AT REDWOOD** Early the next morning, August 18th, the the Indians proceeded to the lower agency at Redwood, killed the clerk, burned houses, and destroyed stores. Other Indians roamed the adjoining country, torturing, killing, and often terribly mutilating the bodies of the unsuspecting settlers, who in terror, vainly tried to escape the savage demons. To those who had befriended them in times of peace, the savages showed no mercy. They suffered the common fate. When the end of this day came, the country along the lower Minnesota River was in the throes of a bloody massacre.

**CAPT. MARSH AT REDWOOD FERRY** Capt. Marsh was in command at Ft. Ridgely, which was established on the north bank of the Minnesota River, a few miles from St. Peter. As soon as the news reached the fort, Capt. Marsh with forty-eight men started for the lower agency, to settle the trouble; but at Redwood Ferry, the company was surrounded by Indians; Marsh was drowned and half of his men were killed. Those who escaped returned to the fort, better realizing the magnitude of the uprising. Re-enforcements were sought from Ft. Snelling and Lieut. Sheehan, who had started for Ft.

Ripley on the upper Mississippi River, was recalled.

### **FIRST AT-TACKS ON NEW ULM**

August 19th, Little Crow, with a band of three hundred twenty warriors, started to take Ft. Ridgely which at this time had only thirty men to guard it, as the re-enforcements had not yet arrived. Little Crow was balked in this attempt however, as about two hundred of his men were so bent on plundering, that they left him and wandered along the Cottonwood River, later making an unsuccessful attack on New Ulm.

The Indians, with increased numbers, came upon New Ulm again on Saturday, August 23rd. Judge Flandreau led the white settlers in a most gallant defense, and protected the inhabitants until the next day when the Indians withdrew. During this conflict, many buildings were burned. These smouldering fires, stench from the unburied bodies, scarcity of provisions and ammunition, and fear of the return of the savages, caused the people to desert the town. A train of one hundred fifty wagons with women and children fled to Mankato, where they were welcomed and afforded care. Settlers from the outlying districts left their homes, cattle and unharvested fields of grain, and went to the fort and the towns on the lower Minnesota River.

### **FT. RIDGELY**

Little Crow, bent on taking Ft. Ridgely, returned there with a force of eight-hundred Indians, who surrounded the fort; but the heroism of its defenders and the successful operation of the cannon which they used, dispersed the savages. The arrival of Col. Sibley with re-enforcements on August 28th, brought a feeling of security to the people who had fought against great odds.

### **SIBLEY**

When on August 19th, Gov. Ramsey received word of the Indian trouble along the Minnesota River, he made Ex-Governor H. H. Sibley, then of Men-

dota. Colonel. Sibley was well fitted for this position; but he had only about fifteen hundred poorly equipped men.

**BIRCH COULIE** August 31, 1862, Sibley sent a force of one hundred fifty with teams under Major Jos. R. Brown and Capt. H. P. Grant to the lower agency to ascertain the location of the Sioux, the condition of the country, and to bury the dead. They moved up the Minnesota River to a place called Birch Coulie, where they encamped for the night. A corral formed by horses and wagons was their only protection; but, seemingly unmindful of the danger, all but the pickets were soon asleep.

At this time Gray Bird, a farmer Indian, and about three hundred fifty savages started to plunder the deserted city of New Ulm. Arriving at Birch Coulie, Gray Bird's band fell upon Brown's camp in the night; they killed ninety horses, riddled the tents with bullets, killed twenty men, and left sixty wounded.

The firing was heard at Ft. Ridgely, whereupon Sibley sent out a detachment of men, which proved insufficient, so that he followed with the rest of his soldiers, repulsed the Indians, and returned to the fort. Brown's calmness prevented the destruction of all his men and saved the towns of Mankato and St. Peter from an attack by this band.

**CAPT. STROUT** Capt. Strout and seventy-five men, volunteers from Hennepin County, moved toward Hutchinson and Forest City. When they reached Acton, they camped for the night between two divisions of Little Crow's band, who were on a hunting expedition in the Big Woods region. A scout from Forest City notified Strout that he was dangerously near the Indian camps, and early the next morning the militia forced its way through Little Crow's band and fled to Hutchinson. They were chased about five miles by the Indians, who killed three men and stole horses, wagons, guns, and cooking utensils.

These savages later made attacks on Forest City and Hutchinson, burned buildings, and plundered the villages until they were routed by Strout's men. The settlers who had gone back to their homes after the first Indian outbreak were again panic stricken and fled to the lower settlements. Some of the people near St. Paul moved into the city to seek safety in numbers.

## **FORT**

### **ABERCROMBIE**

About fifteen miles north of Breckenridge, and west of the Red River, Ft. Abercrombie was maintained to protect the trade in this valley.

In September the northwestern Indians made three unsuccessful attacks on this post, which was commanded by Capt. John Van der Horck.

## **BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE**

Sibley, after failing to effect a peaceable settlement with Little Crow, decided to assemble his forces, now strengthened by

Maj. Welch and the Third Minnesota Infantry, and advance into the Indian country. They left Ft. Ridgely September 18th, and when they arrived in the eastern part of Yellow Medicine County, were within three miles of the Indian camps.

Little Crow, confident of success, desired to make a night attack upon the encamped forces, but the Indian council decided to wait until morning hoping to destroy the army. But the next day, in the battle of Wood Lake, Little Crow was defeated, and the disappointed warriors retreated to their camps south of the Minnesota River.

## **CAMP RELEASE**

Chief Wabasha then delivered about two hundred fifty white prisoners to Sibley at "Camp Release," nine miles below Lac qui

Parle. This practically ended the Indian massacre in Minnesota. Little Crow with one hundred twenty-five Sioux left the State for Devil's Lake, North Dakota. He returned to Minnesota again in July, 1863, and, while he and his



son were picking berries near Hutchinson, was killed by Nathan Lamson. His skull, scalp and arm bones are now in the possession of the Historical Society.

## **TRIALS AND PUNISHMENT OF THE SIOUX**

Sibley, knowing that our prisoners were safe, began inquiring to ascertain what members of the tribe had participated in the worst outrages and crimes of this recent massacre. A military commission of five officers was appointed to try the savages. This court sat part of the time at "Camp Release," Lower Agency, and Mankato. Although this was a time of intense excitement and strong feeling, the procedure of this body was just and dignified, and the judgments given were upon reliable evidence. There were four hundred twenty-five prisoners tried, three hundred twenty-one found guilty of crimes, three hundred three sentenced to death and eighteen to imprisonment.

The condemned Indians were taken to Mankato where they were placed in a log guard house surrounded by soldiers.

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Note. Flandrau tells us that as the prisoners were taken through New Ulm, where the inhabitants were moving the bodies of their dead to regular burial places, the sight of these warriors, although chained in wagons, so infuriated the whites that the prisoners were assaulted with knives, stones, and hot water; one was killed and several others severely bruised.

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President Lincoln ordered that thirty-nine Indians be hanged. One was pardoned and thirty-eight were executed on one scaffold at Mankato, December 26, 1862. The others were taken to the government prisons at Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, where they served four years; then they were liberated and sent to the Sioux reservation at Ft. Thompson, South Dakota.

This Minnesota massacre was one of the greatest of the Indian wars. None equalled it in the number of settlers killed, fiendish depredations, and destruction of property.

To commemorate the bravery of the defense by the unprepared settlers, the state has erected monuments at Ft. Ridgely, New Ulm, Birch Coulie, Camp Release and Acton.

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## LITTLE CROW NO. 5

Note. Tah-O-Yah-te-Doota was the son of Big Thunder or Little Crow No. 4, head of the Kaposia tribe. He was a lazy, overbearing fellow, who by his haughty conduct to his half-brothers, and his bad reputation, was so disliked by his father's tribe that he left it and made his home among the Wahpetons at Lac qui Parle.

He reformed somewhat, and with his smooth tongue and wise judgment gained friends in his new home.

In the fall of 1845 his father, Big Thunder, mortally wounded himself, and before his death, requested that his most loved son, Tah-O-Yah-te-Doota, be his successor.

The son, upon receiving notice of his father's death, was told that some of his native tribe strongly opposed his father's choice, while others favored it. Notwithstanding this opposition, Tah-O-Yah-te-Doota prepared to return to Kaposia. In the spring of 1846, as soon as the Mississippi River was opened, he with his three wives and many Wahpeton friends, traveled in their canoes as far as Shakopee's and Black Dog's villages. Being joined here by other supporters, they went on to Kaposia. As the canoe drew toward the shore, a large crowd of Sioux, led by the half-brothers, gathered to prevent their landing and threatened to shoot the first one who made the attempt.

Here Tah-O-Yah-te-Doota's boldness asserted itself, and, folding his arms across his breast he stepped forward. The half brothers, exasperated by this, shot him through his folded arms. This act caused a revulsion of feeling

among the villagers, who now hailed him as their new chief—Little Crow.

The half brothers immediately fled and when they returned later, Little Crow had them bound and carried to the bank where they were shot. Their corpses were thrown into the river.

# STATE DEVELOPMENT

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## CHAPTER X

### REORGANIZATION

#### **DISBANDING OF THE ARMY**

A new era commenced in Minnesota with the close of the Civil War. When the armies of the United States disbanded at the close of the great struggle, and men returned to their homes after an absence of several years, they found in many cases that their positions in factory or office had been filled. So great an influx of unemployed men into was fortunate in having great areas of western land lying cities might have proved disastrous; but the United States ready for the home-maker. The homestead laws of 1862 and the soldiers' grants were liberal. Hosts caught up the song, "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm," and again a great tide of immigration set toward the west. Minnesota received her share.

In 1870, our population had grown to 439,000; of these, 147,000 were from Scandinavia, Germany, and Great Britain. Her cultivated area grew from 630,000 acres in 1860, to 1,863,000 acres in 1870, and 3,000,00 in 1875.

#### **NEED OF RAILROADS**

Continuously, the demand was made for railroad facilities and, at a great cost, several lines were finally in working order. The story of early railroad building in Minnesota is credit-

able neither to the companies engaged nor to the state; but it is too intricate to follow closely here. Finally, in 1867, a line was completed connecting St. Paul with Prairie du Chien; and, in 1870, another connected St. Paul and Duluth. Thus routes to the East were opened and Minnesota, for the first time, could carry on uninterrupted trade with eastern states during both winter and summer. A result was felt immediately in the higher prices obtained for produce.

The year 1871 was remarkable for further railroad building. The Winona and St. Peter was built and St. Paul was connected by the Great Northern with both Moorhead and Breckenridge on the Red River.

In land grants, bonuses, and rights of way, these roads cost the public over twice as many dollars per mile of completed road as the necessary estimated cost.

At the end of 1872, our mileage was about nineteen hundred.

**SPECULATION** Again, speculation in western lands, in town lots, and in railroad bonds was common. The roads were built far out where population was still scant and freight was light and they had a struggle for existence.

**PANIC OF 1873** The panic of 1873, like that of 1857, created many hardships in Minnesota; however, it brought us the same lesson. Patient industry and cultivation of the soil was the surest means to competence.

Two railroads became bankrupt during this panic and during the next four years, only eighty-seven additional miles of railroad were built; but a few more years found them established on a firmer, surer foundation than before; and since then, their growth has been steady. Minnesota's mileage now is about ten thousand extending into all sections of the state. Through her railroad connections, the great

markets of the East and of the West are open to her trade;  
and Minnesota grain and dairy products are known on  
both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific.



## CHAPTER XI

# AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

### **EARLY EXPERI- MENTS IN AGRICULTURE**

The earliest settlers of Minnesota experimented in the raising of grains. We have read of Col. Snelling's attempt to raise wheat for his garrison; of the cultivation of little farms by the missionaries; and of Taliaferro's school of agriculture for Indian boys established on the shore of Lake Harriet.

The prevalent idea in the east and south was that all of Minnesota, except perhaps its very southern range of counties, was too far north for the cultivation of corn and that we must depend upon wheat and barley for our main crops.

Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, expressed his belief that the territory was not even self-supporting.

### **EXHIBIT AT WORLD'S FAIR**

Such a report hindered our development, but Minnesota has always been fortunate in having among her leaders, young men of broad vision and great faith in the future of our commonwealth.

In 1853, a young man by the name of Le Duc proposed to Governor Ramsey that the territory send an exhibit of her products to the great exposition to be held in New York in 1854.

The governor was enthusiastic in the project and samples of wheat, barley, and corn were procured from farmers living near Stillwater; Mr. Sibley contributed furs; and wild rice was obtained from the upper Mississippi. All made a fair exhibit of our resources.

As Mr. Le Due was about to begin his journey, an unexpected contribution was made to his collection by Mr. Cunradie of Crow Wing. This was a young buffalo bull. He was a magnificent creature with glossy coat and polished horns; but he was not an excellent travelling companion. Mr. Castle, in his history of Minnesota, gives an interesting account of Mr. Le Due's experiences in transferring this untamed creature from the wilderness of Minnesota to the exhibition grounds in New York City. The buffalo aroused consternation all along the way. He overturned a boat on which he was being transported across the Mississippi; in the streets of New York, he charged upon carriages and wagons; and pedestrians fled in terror. When he reached the Exposition grounds, he created such havoc that this part of the Minnesota exhibit was rejected.

However, the remainder of the display from Minnesota attracted favorable attention. Horace Greeley was impressed by it, and in an editorial, acknowledged the error of his former judgment of the territory.

It was several years later before we exported any considerable amount of food stuffs.

J. J. Hill says that as late as 1856, when he reached the territory, the region seemed to be good only for lumber, cranberries, and furs. The first wheat was exported in 1857; and in 1859, statistics show that we exported four hundred three bales of buffalo robes, one hundred bales of furs, three hundred forty-three bushels of cranberries, 70,218 pounds of ginseng, and one hundred fourteen barrels of flour.

**WHEAT**     The introduction of labor saving machinery, as the harvester and threshing machine, encouraged the cultivation of wheat and, between 1850 and 1870,

Southern Minnesota raised great wheat crops. The soil was rich with fertile loam deposited through centuries, and yielded sometimes as many as forty-five bushels per acre with comparatively little effort on the part of the farmer.

Little was raised besides wheat. As a natural result, the soil became exhausted until finally fifteen or twenty bushels was a good average yield. Meanwhile a great new wheat region was opened.

**RED RIVER VALLEY** The Red River Valley is a long narrow valley lying about ten to twenty miles on each side of the Red River of the North. The floor of this valley is a flat, open prairie having a soil of remarkable fertility. During the glacial period, this great plain was covered by a lake called by scientists, Lake, Agassiz, which gradually drained away to the Hudson Bay.

The first wheat grown and harvested in the Red River Valley was probably by the Selkirk colonists in their settlement near Pembina, as early as 1820. George Lamphere describes their methods of cultivation in an address before the Historical Society in 1900: "The methods of cultivation in the Selkirk settlement were rude and primitive. Their plow was English or Scotch, made all of iron from the tip of the beam to the end of the handles, and was ten or twelve feet long. Its share was shaped like a mason's trowel. With this drawn by one horse, enough ground was scratched every spring to raise sufficient wheat to feed all the blackbirds and pigeons in the Red River valley, and leave a surplus large enough to meet the wants of the people of the settlement; also to sell to the Hudson Bay Company all they needed for their outposts in the British Northwest possessions, and still leave a surplus sufficient for food and seed for two years, which was stored up to be used in case of emergency or failure of crop in the coming seasons. The grain was cut with sickles, the bundles tied with willow withes and stacked in the barnyard, to be flailed out dur-

ing the winter and cleaned by the winds, men and women and children all giving a helping hand in this work."

For many years, these thrifty people were, except for a few fur-traders, the only white inhabitants of this great valley, and until the ratification of the Pembina treaty in 1864 and the building of railroads into the region, settlers were few.

**PEMBINA TREATY** In 1851, Governor Ramsey made a treaty with the Chippewa Indians for the land along the Red River of the North; but as it was not ratified by the senate, it did not go into effect. In October, 1863, about twelve miles east of Crookston, Alexander Ramsey, and A. C. Morrill made a second treaty with the chiefs of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of the Chippewa tribe.

At this time the government secured about eleven million acres of land in the Red River valley on both the Dakota and Minnesota sides of the river. This treaty was confirmed in 1864 by President Lincoln.

**RAILROADS** The Northern Pacific was built from Duluth to Moorhead and Fargo between 1870 and 1872 and the next year to Bismarck. The Great Northern, then the St. Paul and Pacific, was next built to Breckenridge and to Crookston. The land thus opened up was rapidly taken by settlers and the years between 1875 and 1885 are noted for their great immigration into this valley of promise. Many of the settlers were from southeastern Minnesota and others were from neighboring states, while still more were immigrants coming directly from Europe. Trains of "prairie schooners" crossed Minnesota carrying the homesteader, his family, and all his goods. Within a few years, hundreds of sod shanties dotted the prairie; thriving villages were built; and, as is usual on our frontier, schools and churches were established.

**BONANZA FARMS** The homestead law attempted to limit the land grants to actual settlers or homeseekers but sometimes, when these settlers became discouraged, they sold their titles to others more fortunate. These men bought railroad land grants also and in time accumulated the rights to extensive tracts of land and established great farms called "bonanza" farms. These contained several thousand acres and employed many men.

**DALYRYMPLE** The pioneer of "bonanza" farmers in Minnesota was Oliver Dalyrymple. In 1875, he became convinced that this Red River Valley might become a great wheat region and made tests of the soil to prove his theory. Then he made a contract with certain holders of Northern Pacific land grants to cultivate their land and return to them a certain per cent of the profits. He was very successful and, convinced of the value of the land for wheat raising, more settlers swarmed into the valley and planted thousands of acres to wheat.

In one year, 1,500,000 acres were taken as homesteads and in ten years, nearly all available land in the valley had been granted. The annual wheat crop in this valley is now about 50,000,000 bushels, while the entire output of the state for 1915 was 73,900,000. No wonder that this is called the bread basket of the States.

**GRASS-HOPPERS** This remarkable progress was not without its seasons of discouragement. An explorer of the Red River Valley in 1850 tells of encountering a cloud of grasshoppers that ate the seat of his saddle and the top of his boots. The year of 1873 was generally unfortunate. In the spring of that year, swarms of Rocky Mountain locusts, called grasshoppers, settled over the western and southwestern counties and destroyed the crops so completely that the state legislature appropriated funds to relieve the distress caused by the crop failure and to provide seed. Every one supposed that the plague could

not survive another season, but in 1875, the "hoppers" appeared in increased numbers having been hatched from eggs deposited in the ground the previous year.

Fields of grain nearly ready for harvest were so devastated by them in a few hours that not a spear was left standing. Twenty million dollars would scarcely cover the loss. The people were desperate; aid was again granted the afflicted districts; great sums were paid in bounties for dead hoppers; a day of prayer was appointed by Governor Pillsbury and was observed by all denominations. The Governor says, "The day following, it turned cold and froze every grasshopper in the state; froze 'em right up solid, sir; well, sir, that was over twenty years ago and grasshoppers don't appear to have been bothering us much since."

The State School of Agriculture has been active in distributing widely the results of their research work in ridding the country of these and other similar pests.

## **GREAT BLIZZARD**

In 1873, there also occurred a snow storm long known to the pioneer as the "Great Blizzard." It was early in January of that year and lasted for three days. The forenoon of the first day had been unusually mild and many had left their homes for the near by village or wood-lot when the storm suddenly overtook them. The air was dense with snow. This condition accompanied by a high wind, blinded and exhausted the traveller. Men were unable to make their way even from the barn to the house; in some of the cabins, the chimneys became choked with snow making a fire impossible: about seventy persons lost their lives.

**CROOKSTON** Among the cities of the Red River Valley today are Crookston and Fergus Falls.

Crookston, situated on Red Lake River, is the county seat of Polk County. Being in the heart of this rich farming district, it has attained a population of about ten thousand people. It is the site of an agricultural school and a



state experimental farm. The different industries are well represented; but it ships principally wheat, potatoes and lumber.

**FERGUS FALLS** Fergus Falls, a city of eight thousand people, is the County seat of Ottertail County, and was established in 1872. Among early pioneers, were E. E. Corlies, Jacob Austin, James Compton, Moses E. Clapp, L. L. Baxter, and Elmer E. Adams.

The Ottertail Power Company has developed the water power of the Otter Tail River which generates electricity and furnishes power and light for Wahpeton and Hankinson in North Dakota, and the Minnesota towns of Morris, Wheaton, Hancock, and Graceville.

Fergus Falls has three flour mills, woolen mills, basket factory and foundry.

**CORN** Even the most fertile soil will, in time, become impoverished by the continual culture of one crop: and in southern Minnesota, as the wheat yield decreased, the farmer saw the necessity of crop rotation and of stock-raising. He experimented in raising corn. Tried at first in the southern counties, its cultivation gradually extended until now it is a standard crop in all parts of the state.

This result has been accomplished largely through the efforts of the agricultural college with its instructions affecting seed selection and in its corn raising contests. These contests, participated in by boys of all sections of the state, have resulted in a yield of corn per acre which has astonished the experienced farmer and shown the possibilities of the state in this line.

In 1913, we produced ninety-six million bushels of corn valued at \$50,880,000. This was our greatest yield but even in the less bountiful season of 1915, the crop was 62,933,000 bushels.

Other grains as oats, barley, and rye also yield plenti-

fully, and the value of the hay crop alone in 1915, was \$20,664,000.

**FRUIT RAISING** When our grandfathers came to Minnesota, they found an abundance of cranberries in the swamps, particularly in the middle section of the state; in the south, wild strawberries grew in abundance and there were blackberries and raspberries. Several varieties of delicious wild plums were also found. Even the wild crab apple was so prepared for the table that it found favor; though, to the pioneer from Ohio or surrounding states, it must have seemed a poor substitute for the fruit of the old orchards he had known. For many years, it was believed impossible for Minnesota to raise winter apples, but in no other field, has she made greater progress in the last twenty-five years.

At the state fair held in Rochester, 1866, the entire exhibit of apples was from three orchards and twenty-seven plates held the entire exhibit. We have only to compare this with a recent state fair apple exhibit to be convinced of Minnesota's progress along this line. A factor in her success has been the importation of varieties of trees from the countries with the same climatic conditions as ours. The apple crop of Minnesota in 1903 was valued at \$550,000. The chief problem now is the marketing. While children in our cities crave and are sometimes denied this luscious fruit, it is fed to the pigs or allowed to rot on the ground in orchards not a hundred miles distant.

**LANDS SWAMP** So great has been the interest in southern and central Minnesota, that aside from its timber and iron mines, little attention has been given to the northern section of the state. Here are five million acres of swamp land which, when drained, will furnish an agricultural area, having a soil unexcelled for raising of roots, grain and hay. It is stated upon tests that a given area in

this section will pasture twice as many cattle as the same acreage in the highly developed Mississippi Valley.

The state is aiding in the settlement of this part of Minnesota and we now find there the thriving towns of Rosseau, Warroad, Beaudette and Spooner.

## CHAPTER XII

# STOCK RAISING

### OF DAIRYING INTRODUCTION

Several causes combine to encourage dairying in Minnesota. We have acres of wild, natural meadow and hay is easily grown in all parts of the state; our climate is cool and our water supply pure and abundant; the many flour mills and the flax seed mills furnish good food in their by-products and we are within easy reach of great markets.

Notwithstanding these advantages, dairying as an industry, was scarcely begun in Minnesota before 1884 when the farmers of Southern Minnesota felt the need of crop rotation and the raising of livestock to restore the fertility of their fields. Rapidly, the industry spread to other parts of the state and it is prophesied that the time is not far distant when Northern Minnesota will take the lead in dairy products.

### IMPROVED STOCK

The agricultural college has done some of its most efficient work in animal husbandry and throughout the state its influence is felt in the better selection and care of cattle. Prof. Haecker of the University made a careful survey of dairy conditions in the state in 1892 and published a report of his observations. Especially, he advocated the co-operative creamery as a means to improve conditions. James J. Hill has also done much to improve the stock, especially of Northern Minnesota, by introducing improved breeds of cattle.

During the last fifteen years, the average product of butter fat per cow has increased 50 per cent, and Minnesota has won thirteen out of fifteen of the national championship banners on her dairy products. By the census of 1910, she ranked third among the states of the Union in the amount of butter produced.

**CREAMERIES** Creameries and cheese factories increase in numbers annually. In 1915, we had 850 creameries, 622 of which were co-operative; we had 856,047 cows and made over 123,000,000 pounds of butter valued at \$32,067,000 and during the same year we manufactured 5,595,000 pounds of cheese. The entire value of our dairy products is about \$96,000,000 annually.

“A gold mine in the state that is getting richer every day and can continue without limit. There are eight hundred fifty creameries: for every creamery there are a hundred farmers; and for every farmer ten cows—a million cattle upon a thousand hills. To complete the picture, look again and see the crystal rivers winding, and lakes without number, with unsullied water reflecting the pure blue of the sky, unsurpassed in number and beauty. No wonder we make the best butter in the world. If you have a friend who does not live in this state, tell him about it.”—Report of State Dairy and Food Department, 1915.

The remarkable success of the dairy industry throughout the state has encouraged the raising of other live stock as beef-cattle, hogs, and sheep. Their number is constantly increasing.

The great packing industries of several Minnesota cities, particularly those of South St. Paul, afford a ready market for the live stock produced in this section of the Northwest and her meat products are shipped not only throughout the United States but to foreign countries as well.

**POULTRY** Another line of animal production is that of poultry. The raising of poultry was once considered of very minor importance on the farm and was quite exclusively the woman's work, but the estimated value of poultry production for the last year was over thirty seven million dollars; and the staunch old Plymouth Rock or the little Leghorn hen has "*laid for*" the money lender and has scratched away the mortgage from many a Minnesota homestead.

**BEE-KEEPING** An industry that is yet in its infancy in our state is bee-keeping. Foremost in the state in this industry, is Rev. Francis Jager who produced in one year on a little farm on Lake Minnetonka over six tons of honey. The Regents of the University established in 1914, the Division of Bee Culture at the College of Agriculture and invited Rev. Jager to become its leader. Honey producing plants are fireweed, flowers, maples, dandelions, fruit trees, willows, basswood, and many others.

The Professor tells us: "Tons of honey are going to waste and millions of dollars are lost, because there are practically no good bee-keepers in the state."



## CHAPTER XIII

### MILLING

**FIRST MILL**      A state so well fitted for the cultivation of cereals as Minnesota is, and having its abundant water power, would quite naturally become a milling center.

The first mill known to have been erected in Minnesota was the government mill built by Colonel Snelling near the fort. The first under individual ownership was built by Lemuel Bolles in Afton, Washington County.

Between 1850-'55, many grist mills were built in different parts of the state. [In 1853, Richard Rogers and Franklin Steele built a merchant mill at St. Anthony Falls in East Minneapolis which was followed in 1854, by a much larger enterprise founded by Eastman, Rollins and Upton who built a mill on the lower end of Hennepin Island at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars. This mill was called "The Minnesota;" it was forty feet by sixty feet and was the nucleus from which has grown the great milling industry of Minneapolis.]

In 1855, two men, Gardiner of Hastings, and Archibald, who had a small mill on the Cannon River, introduced into their mills a new process for grinding wheat. Heretofore, the purpose of milling machinery had been to grind rapidly and at high pressure, producing as much flour as possible at the first grinding. Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Archibald each discovered that the heat generated by this method produced dark, pasty flour and they increased the

number of grindings and reduced the pressure. For some-time, the flour of these mills brought a higher price in the markets than did that from any other mills of the state and they gave Minnesota flour a good reputation.

**THE MIDLINGS PURIFIER** The middling is that portion of the wheat grain lying between the husk and the softer, starchy center. This portion of the kernel is its most valuable part but was formerly thought to be useless, and was cast out in making flour.

In 1861, Alexander Faribault sent to Montreal for two brothers (La Croix) to build him a mill. These brothers were from France and were skilled millers. After they had finished building the plant for Faribault, they built one for themselves at Faribault. Here they experimented in constructing an improvement in milling machinery already in use in France, known as a middlings purifier. By this machinery, the middlings were used and the flour produced was far superior in its rising power and its nutritive value to that already in use.

Before the La Croix brothers had their new machinery well installed, a freshet swept away their dam and Edmund La Croix moved to Minneapolis. He visited the millers of Minneapolis and told them of the middlings purifier. One, George Christian, had faith enough in his story to allow him to build and install the machine. It cost about three hundred dollars and it revolutionized the milling industry of the state. The price of Minneapolis and Minnesota flour increased from one to three dollars a barrel. By saving so large a portion of each grain, about four bushels of wheat were now required to make a barrel of flour while five had been used before.

Another very important result of the adoption of this bit of machinery was in the increased production of spring wheat.

Minnesota always raised spring wheat rather than win-

ter wheat, but since it has a much harder shell than the winter variety and consequently more "middlings," it had been thought of less value in flour making. The middlings purifier changed this rating. Hard spring wheat grew in demand and the wheat crop was almost doubled between 1870-1880.

The La Croix brothers whose study led to such great good for the state, died practically unrewarded.

Since this time, many other improvements have been made in milling machinery. The best processes in use in France, Austria and Germany have been carefully studied and some of them adopted. The old stones which ground the grain have been replaced by rollers of steel and porcelain which crush it.

**WASHBURN MILL** In 1878, the Washburn mill of Minneapolis was totally destroyed by an explosion of flour dust. Several mills caught fire and eighteen lives were lost. The property loss was about one million dollars. The mills were rebuilt at once. The Pillsbury mill constructed then was at that time the largest in the world.

**FLOUR EXPORT** The export of flour from Minnesota to foreign countries began in 1878, when Minneapolis sent out 107,183 barrels; in 1890, we exported about two million barrels and ten years later, over four million barrels, or about one-fourth the entire flour export of the United States.

This enormous output was again doubled at the close of the next decade when we shipped over eight million barrels.

Duluth, as well as Minneapolis, is counted one of the great milling centers of America; and outside of these two cities there are about two hundred mills in the state.

At the World's Exposition at Paris, Minnesota flour and bread each took first premium, proving that we rank first in the world not only in the quantity but in the quality of this production.

## CHAPTER XIV

# LUMBERING

### LOCATION OF FORESTS

Originally, over half of Minnesota was covered with forests, especially the northern counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, and Koochiching. When eastern capitalists heard of the immense areas of pine in this state, some of them became active in promoting lumber industry in this middle west, while others bought extensive tracts for speculation.

### EARLY LUMBERING

Daniel Stanchfield of Wisconsin was sent up the Rum River to ascertain the extent of this natural timber and when he reported on the immense forests with the navigable rivers for transporting the logs, it was but a short time until dams, logging camps, and saw mills sprang into existence along the Rum, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, as well as the streams along our northern boundary.

Franklin Steele secured ten thousand dollars to build a dam and saw mill at St. Anthony Falls, and hired Chippewa Indians to cut down trees. Then it seemed impossible to use all the timber of this state, and much was laid waste.

Lumbering has been extensively carried on in Minnesota for about thirty years, during which time more than half of our most valuable timber has been cut, or destroyed by fire. A large share of our white and Norway Pine has been destroyed.

Not until the logging camps became less numerous and several saw mills ceased operating, did the state awake to the fact that the trees were not growing fast enough to take the place of those destroyed. This led to a movement of the state and Federal government to preserve our forests, by setting aside reserve forest tracts, promoting a plan of reforestry, and also adopting means to prevent forest fires.

**FOREST FIRES** Fires have caused great loss in our northern pineries. In 1871 a great conflagration swept over this district, then thinly settled.

September 1, 1894, a fire started in Pine County, and before it could be checked, Hinckley and eight other villages were totally destroyed. Over four hundred lives were lost and one million dollars worth of property destroyed.

In 1908, the town of Chisholm on the Mesabi Range was left in ruins, and two years later, one of the worst ravages swept away the lumbering towns of Beaudette and Spooner in Beltrami County. A large number of settlers made their escape on trains, while others remaining, saved themselves in the Rainy River.

After these disasters, the state promptly aided the sufferers by money contributions and general relief but the great timber loss awakened the people of Minnesota to the necessity of co-operation in protecting and preserving our timbered lands. Not only are they of industrial value but they conserve the lakes and streams, preserve the game, modify the climate, beautify the landscape, and furnish excellent health resorts. This was so vividly portrayed, in the addresses of Gifford Pinchot, former United States Forester, and in articles written by General C. C. Andrews of Minnesota, as to bring about a public sentiment which demanded forest legislation.

**FORESTRY LAWS** In 1895, the first forest conservation law passed the legislature, whereby the state auditor was made a forest commissioner with authority to

appoint a chief fire warden, who directed sub state wardens, and furnished printed notices warning citizens against danger from negligence.

This warden must be perfectly familiar with our forests, kind and condition of each, and the effort to promote new timber growth.

Auditor Robert C. Dunn appointed Gen. C. C. Andrews the first chief warden; he ably served in this capacity for sixteen years. It was largely through his efforts, and the circulation of his yearly report to the state fire commissioner, that a change in the method of cutting forests was instituted. Under present rules, loggers cut only those trees that are eight inches or more in diameter, and must avoid injury to younger growth.

The legislature of 1911 abolished the office of Forest Commissioner and established a state board of forestry. The institution of a College of Forestry in the State University and the appointment of city foresters show development in the right direction.

A forest nursery at Cass Lake raises five hundred thousand seedlings a year, to be used in the reforestation of Minnesota, while a smaller one in Superior National Forest furnishes about fifty thousand plants a years for that reserve.

## **PRESENT INDUSTRIES**

At present there are fifteen hundred camps operating in Minnesota forests, where about forty thousand men find winter employment of which 260,000 are engaged in different wood working occupations.

## **NATIONAL PARKS**

The United States government has aided Minnesota in preserving her forests by establishing within her boundary two national reserves, one of which is near Lake Vermillion, and the other bordering Cass and Leech Lakes.



**ITASCA  
STATE PARK**

From time to time the legislature of the state has created certain State Parks. In 1891 a tract of nearly twenty thousand acres, near the head waters of the Mississippi River, was set aside as Itasca State Park. This park contains over forty million feet of white pine, which is protected as well as the game and fish included within its borders. An annual appropriation is made by the legislature for the improvement of this park which has become quite a summer resort. Its three hundred lakes with their pike, bass, and pickerel are an attraction for the angler while the wild area with its native animals is a paradise for the student of nature. A large, log hotel called Douglas Lodge, has been erected by the state, in the midst of a splendid body of Norway pine on the southeast corner of Lake Itasca. This, with a club house and several cottages, accommodate its guests, while others enjoy tent life.

**INTER-STATE  
PARK**

In 1895, Geo. H. Hazzard started action to induce the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin to secure the Dales of the St. Croix at St. Croix, Wisconsin and Taylor's Falls, Minnesota as a park. This gigantic task was successful and the first inter-state park in the United States was reserved.

This spot with its waterfalls and various forms of plant life is most picturesque, while its rock features and giants' Kettles are of great geological interest. Inter-state Park has been improved by the work of the government on the St. Croix River and by the building of the Northern Pacific depot.

**OTHER  
STATE  
PARKS** Other state parks are at Minneopa Falls near Mankato, Burntside, east of Lake Vermillion, Pillsbury near Brainerd, Alexander Ramsey at Redwood Falls, and the Horace Austin at Austin.

It is interesting to note the growth of a few of the



cities which have been established in the lumber regions.

**LITTLE FALLS** The first settlement was made at Little Falls in 1848 and the village was incorporated in 1880. Little Falls has now a population of about six thousand and it owes its growth in great measure to the development of its water power by the Little Falls Power Company.

**BRAINERD** Brainerd, with a population of about eight thousand, was organized in 1871, soon after the building of the Northern Pacific and owes its growth to the construction of a great dam across the Mississippi by Charles F. Kindred and Company.

Much interest has recently been awakened in this locality by the development of iron deposits in the Cuyuna Range.

**CLOQUET** Carleton County was organized in 1858. It is drained by the St. Louis River and its tributaries. The St. Louis River furnishes fine water power from falls occurring between Cloquet and Duluth. The principal power plant is at Thomson. Cloquet began its milling industry in 1878 when Charles D. Harwood erected its first steam saw mill with a capacity of fifty thousand feet. It is now a city of eight thousand inhabitants and numbers among its lumber industries, a box factory, three lath mills, five lumber mills, one paper and two pulp mills.

**AITKIN** Aitkin County contains several localities of interest in our early history.

Sandy Lake was visited by Pike in 1805-6. Here was located a trading post, the headquarters for twenty years of British and Indian traders, along the portage route from Winnipeg to Lake Superior.

At Pokegama Falls was the famous battle between the Chippewa and the Sioux. Aitkin is the county seat of this county and has large lumber interests.

**PINE CITY** Covered with pine timber and traversed by many streams by which logs could be floated to the St. Croix, the region of Pine County was the scene of pioneer lumbering activities. It is now a well developed agricultural and grazing land.

As early as 1840, a mission was established by Rev. Mr. Kirkland at the present site of Pine City but was necessarily abandoned because of the hostilities between the warring Indian tribes.

The present town of Pine City was organized in 1874 and is the county seat.

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS** International Falls, the county seat of Koochiching County, in northern Minnesota owes its prominence to the development of the immense water power of the Rainy River at this place. This river which drains a vast basin comprising fifteen thousand square miles, here falls from twenty-four to thirty-four feet. The total power, which averages from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand horse-power is fully developed and used in pulp, paper, planing mills, and other industries; beside lighting and pumping water in International Falls, and the Canadian city of Fort Frances, Ontario, on the opposite side of the river. Each city has a power plant, which furnishes a uniform and reliable supply.

The credit of this great economic achievement is due chiefly to Mr. E. W. Barkus, who is president of the Minnesota and Ontario Power Company on the Canadian side and the Rainy River Improvement Company on the American side. He has secured the right to construct and operate these plants, and through his efforts the new border towns secured a railroad to connect them with outlying districts, and to furnish them a market for their products.

International Falls has one paper mill which produces from spruce pulp two hundred twenty tons of paper a day.

This is used principally by the daily papers of St. Paul and Chicago.

The development of the industries made possible by this great power supply has been an influence in settling the adjacent farming district which is called upon for food and to supply much of the raw material used in its mills.

## CHAPTER XV

# MINING AND QUARRYING

**IRON RANGES** While pioneer settlers were converting the fertile rolling prairies of Minnesota into rich agricultural and dairying districts, and the woodman's ax resounded through its dense hardwood forests, there lay hidden in its northeastern counties, vast deposits of iron ore which have proved a most notable resource.

Minnesota ranks first among the states of the Union in iron ore production. It leads the world, not only in the amount of mineral produced, but in its grade.

There are three distinct ranges in the state, The Vermillion, Mesaba, and Cuyuna.

**VERMILLION RANGE** In 1870, George C. Stone, a prominent business man of Duluth, who had investigated and was convinced of the presence of mineral wealth in the Vermillion, put forth his effort to obtain capital for its development.

The few who had sufficient faith in the existence of rich iron deposits to listen to Mr. Stone, believed them to be so far removed from civilization that the project would prove a failure. The persistent efforts of Mr. Stone finally succeeded in interesting Charlemagne Tower, a capitalist of Pennsylvania, who furnished funds to open and operate the mines. The Minnesota Iron Company was organized.

Four million dollars were spent on eighty miles of railroad connecting Duluth with the iron range. This road was completed in 1884 and 62,124 tons of ore were shipped from the Soudan mine near Tower. The mines near Ely, which is twenty miles east of Tower, were opened in 1886.

**MESABA RANGE** The Mesaba Range where have proved to be our most valuable deposits, lies about twenty miles south of the Vermillion range and parallel to it. As early as 1850, Dr. J. G. Norwood found iron ore at Gunflint Lake at the eastern end of this range; while its presence at the western end was discovered by H. H. Eames in 1866. It was not until about twenty-five years ago when the Merrith pioneer operators struck ore near Mountain Iron, that the development of the Mesaba began. When a railroad was completed in 1892, the first shipment of iron ore was made. A year later, the upturned roots of a tree revealed to a prospector, the presence of iron at Biwabik, and a mine was located there.

This inexhaustible store of natural wealth is a soft hematite ore, often yielding 70 per cent of pure metal, and lying very near the surface of the ground.

**METHOD OF MINING** Much of the mining on this range is the open pit system. The surface is stripped to a depth of from twenty to one hundred feet, when the soft red ore is exposed. Large steam shovels lift it from the heart of the pit into the ore cars which stand on temporary tracks ready to receive it. The powerful machinery operates with such ease that in a short time a train of from fifty to one hundred twenty-five cars drawn by a gigantic engine is moving on its way to Two Harbors, Superior or Duluth. When these cars reach the docks, the chutes which are raised and lowered by electricity, remove the ore into lake boats where it speeds on its way to Pittsburg, Cleveland and other cities near the

eastern coal beds, where it is smelted and manufactured.

This range shows the observer some of the largest open pit mines in the world. The deposits lying deeper are worked by the under-ground method.

**SETTLEMENT** About 125,000 men are employed in the mines, and general offices and in transporting the ore. With the development of this great industry; towns and villages sprang up in Northeastern Minnesota. The thrifty farmers followed to supply the food demand which this new population created.

Virginia, a place of nearly 12,000 inhabitants, is seventy-five miles northwest of Duluth, while only twenty-two miles farther west is Hibbing, about the same size and said to be the richest town in the world. Its school buildings cost \$500,000; city hall \$135,000; and library \$35,000. The Hull Rust mine, located here, is the largest open pit mine in the world, while the Mahoning alone has produced about nineteen million tons of ore. It is connected by an electric line to Gilbert situated at the eastern end of the range.

The Oliver Mining Company has constructed a concentrating plant at Trout Lake near Coleraine, at a cost of one and one-half million dollars, for the purpose of washing the sand from certain ore, thus making it of market value. Several such plants are now being constructed. At the Brunt Mine, a drying plant to reduce the moisture of the ore is proving a successful experiment.

Grand Rapids, Chisholm, Eveleth, and Biwabik are hustling mining towns.

**CUYUNA RANGE** This iron range which lies in Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties was discovered and brought into prominence through the efforts of Mr. Cuyler Adams. It is about fifty-five miles long and contains magnetic low grade ore interspersed with deep beds of graphite which may prove a valuable resource to the

state. Mining operations began in this region in 1910.

Minnesota produces three-fifths of the iron mined in the United States, and it is estimated that she will be among the greatest iron producing states for many years. From 1873 to 1889, this northeastern section of Minnesota was open to purchase and settlement as other state lands; but in 1889, the state legislated to lease this property for a period of fifty years at a royalty of twenty-five cents on each ton of ore mined. The receipts which thus far have amounted to \$4,000,000 go to increase our school fund.

About one-tenth of the mines are owned by the state, and the others by private parties. The state auditor has charge of the mineral lands and mining affairs of the state. This office must employ expert mining engineers to oversee the methods used on leased mining properties and a large force of men to check out the cars of ore. The state has its offices and headquarters at Hibbing where about twenty men are employed as inspectors, car checkers, and office help. The inspectors must visit the mines every three months to see that conditions are kept as free from danger as possible.

**DULUTH** The vicinity of the St. Louis River from which St. Louis County derives its name, was visited as early as 1680 by French travelers and Jesuit Missionaries. It was then that Capt. Greyloson DuLuth reached the western end of Lake Superior. He was followed a few years later by his brother, Jean DuLuth, who established trading posts at the mouth of Pigeon River and on Minnesota Point. The wealth of furs later attracted the American and Astor Fur Companies with headquarters along the northern shores of Lake Superior. In these early days, prophecy favored Fond du Lac as being the future western lake post.



## **FIRST SETTLERS**

The first permanent settlers who arrived at the head of Lake Superior located at Superior on the southwestern point of the lake, and this fast-growing village held unrivalled supremacy until 1870.

At this time, the first railroad from St. Paul to the head of the lake was built, and finding it impossible to secure land titles for the terminus of the road at Superior, Wisconsin, it was located on the Minnesota side.

A settlement here, which had existed since 1854, was named Duluth by Rev. Joseph Wilson, a Presbyterian minister. He was given two lots in the new town as reward for this service. A post-office was established in 1857 with pioneer J. B. Culver as its first postmaster. In 1869, a newspaper, "The Duluth Minnesotian" sprang into existence with Dr. Thomas Foster, editor.

**GEORGE STONE** In 1870, there came to Duluth, George C. Stone. His endeavors in the development of the mining interests of the section have already been noted. Within three years through the success of his efforts, and the entrance of the railroad, Duluth boasted a population of five thousand. This boom was, however, followed by as rapid a depression.

**DECLINE** In 1873 Jay Cooke, who had been one of the chief promoters of the newly proposed Northern Pacific railroad, failed. This so reacted on the business of Duluth, that banks closed their doors; merchants became bankrupt; and three-fourths of the people left the town. The population soon fell to 1,300. It was five years before this railroad was completed and confidence restored.

**GROWTH** Duluth being now connected with the wheat growing section of the Red River Valley, maintained a steady, prosperous growth until today its population numbers 90,000.

Trade was greatly facilitated by the opening of the canal across Minnesota Point. This channel, now spanned by the only aerial bridge in the United States, is wide enough to afford entrance to the large lake boats, and gives Duluth the finest land-locked harbor in the world, and makes it a famous inland port. In 1913, the tonnage of its freight surpassed that of New York, Chicago, Liverpool or London.

It is the largest flax-seed market in the world. The general offices of the United States Steel Corporation are located there, and the building of the twenty-million dollar steel plant at West Duluth predicts a new era of manufacture for the upper Mississippi Valley.

**QUARRYING** Besides iron ore, this state has extensive deposits of sandstone, limestone, granite, and jasper. Most important of these is granite, widely distributed through the state. There are three well defined sections noted for this product. A district surrounding St. Cloud in Sherburne, Benton, and Stearns Counties produces red and gray granite; along the Minnesota River from Big Stone to New Ulm, is another section. The region of Big Stone Lake furnishes gray granite.

Mesaba range also supplies much granite. Red Jasper, so highly valued by the Indians, occurs in southwestern Minnesota; the rougher building stones, sandstone and limestone, are quarried in abundance. Deposits of limestone occur along the Mississippi from Stillwater to Winona, and on the Minnesota in the Mankato-Kasota district.

Clay suitable for making brick, tile, pottery and cement is found throughout the state. The annual output of these building materials is about three million dollars.

**ST. CLOUD** St. Cloud, in Stearns County, and on the Mississippi River, was first settled in 1854. In the heart of an agricultural and timber region and with

easy river transportation, its growth was steady. In 1886, a dam having a granite bed was built at a cost of \$200,000, furnishing water power for flour and saw mills. With a population of 13,500, this is one of the most modern cities of the state. Here are located a State Normal School, and the State Reformatory.

**SAUK RAPIDS AND WATAB** Sauk Rapids and Watab are on the sites of former Indian trading stations. They also have great quarries of granite; and the paper mill at Watab supplied by adjacent spruce forests, is one of the largest in Minnesota. Sauk Rapids was visited by a terrific cyclone in 1886; from which it suffered considerable damage, but it was at once re-built.

## CHAPTER XVI

# EDUCATION

Minnesota has special reason to be proud of its public school system. In no other state has there been a more steady effort to develop a school system that shall meet the actual needs of the people.

**FIRST SCHOOL** We have read of the first school of the state established in 1847 in St. Paul with Miss Harriet Bishop as teacher. This first school building was a little hut about ten feet by twelve, built of log and chinked with mud and having a stick chimney and mud fire place. Poor as it was, it was probably as good as the majority of homes of that time.

This school opened with an attendance of nine pupils of whom two were white, but before the year had closed, the number had increased to forty.

**FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING** In these early days of the territory the "Ladies' Sewing Society" was as efficient as our ladies' civic leagues and our women's clubs of the present.

In 1848, the Sewing Society interested themselves in building a house which should serve as a school, church, and place for all public meetings. The sum needed for its erection would not seem very great now, (about \$300), but it took considerable effort then to raise that amount. However, the ladies succeeded and the school house was erected near St. Peter and Third Streets.

As already noted, the reservation made Minnesota by the Federal government for educational purposes, when the territory was organized, was unusually large. By that res-

ervation, sections sixteen and thirty-six in each township were set apart for school purposes.



**ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS** Our first territorial legislature enacted a law providing for the establishment of a system of schools; and during the same year, the citizens of St. Paul held a school meeting in which they organized the town into school districts and made provision for the election of school commissioners and establishment of a school in each district.

**STATE SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** The legislature of 1851 provided for the creation of the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction and a state system of schools; but the salary allowed for this office, (\$100 a year), was so meager that one of ability could scarcely afford to hold it; and from 1856 to 1860, the office was practically vacant. An attempt was then made to leave this department under the supervision of the Secretary of State; but this plan also, was unsatisfactory; and in 1867, when we had in the state 100,000 children of school age and when our school fund had increased to about one and a half million dollars, the opinion prevailed that the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction was one of greatest importance and should be better paid. Under a new system, Mark Dunnell was appointed superintendent with a fair salary; and under his leadership, a state system was more carefully organized; a more thorough training for the teachers' profession was required; teachers met in institutes and a state teachers' association was organized.

The system then fairly launched, has not ceased to expand with the needs of the growing commonwealth.

## **DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL LANDS**

We should be very grateful to our early statesmen for their careful disposal of the great land reservations made us by Congress.

Neighboring states sold their school lands at liberal prices in order to encourage settlement and consequent improvement of the land. By doing this, they preserved only a comparatively small school fund.

In Minnesota, the question of the disposal of the school lands was discussed long and thoroughly. Members of the Constitutional Convention were divided in their opinions. Some wanted the land in each county sold and its price reserved as a county school fund to be used entirely in the support of the schools of that county; others, particularly Thomas Galbraith and Thomas Wilson of Winona, debated against this county plan and urged that the sum received for all school lands of the state should be reserved in a central fund, the income of which should be used for the support of schools in all parts of the state. It was finally decided that "the school lands should be sold at public sale, the principal to be preserved forever inviolate and undiminished as a perpetual school fund of the state; and that the income arising from such fund should be distributed to the townships in proportion to the number of scholars between the ages of five and twenty-one years, the Legislature being given authority over the investment of the funds."

At this time, state lands were selling at one dollar and a quarter per acre but, anxious to accumulate as large a school fund as possible, our statesmen decided in 1861, to sell school lands at seven dollars per acre. This price was afterward reduced to five dollars.

## **LEASING OF MINERAL LANDS**

With the discovery of minerals, there arose a question as to whether school lands containing ore should be sold at all or not. Through the initiative of Capt.

William Braden, State Auditor between 1882-'91, such lands

are not sold but leased by the state and pay 25 cents royalty on each ton of ore produced.

Our school fund was in 1914, thirty-two million dollars. This amount, carefully invested by the Board of Investment (comprising the Governor, State Treasurer, State Auditor, President of the Board of Regents of the University and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) yields an annual income of about \$1,320,000.

This does not nearly meet the entire expenses of the schools of the state. The common schools receive in addition, the proceeds of a local tax and of a state tax of one mill.

Special aid is also given to districts that meet certain requirements in length of terms, better qualifications of teachers, or better equipment.

These schools, according to their advancement, are classified as graded, semi-graded, rural, and state high schools and they receive from \$125 to \$1,500 state aid.

**NORMAL SCHOOLS** In 1858, largely through the influence of Dr. John Ford of Winona, provision was made by the legislature for the establishment of three normal schools for the training of teachers. These schools were located at Winona, Mankato, and St. Cloud.

The first of these normal schools was opened at Winona in 1860 with Prof. John Ogden of Ohio as its principal; the second, at Mankato, 1868; and the third, at St. Cloud in 1869. Two others have been established since, one at Moorhead in 1888, and the other at Duluth, in 1892.

Through the efforts of these schools, teaching has come to be recognized as a profession and the standard of work in the common schools has steadily risen.

**UNIVERSITY** In 1851, Congress allowed Minnesota a reservation of two townships of land to endow a university to be located at or near St. Anthony Falls. The legislature established this university and pro-



vided for its government through a board of twelve regents to be elected by the legislature.

The board was enthusiastic and set about to open the university as soon as possible. Franklin Steele, one of the regents, contributed several lots near the Falls as a building site, and the others subscribed money. Soon they had erected a building of two stories, thirty by forty feet. For three years, classes were held in this building, but the regents were very ambitious for the rapid growth of the school and, in 1856, began the erection of a large building estimated to cost about \$50,000. In order to do this, all the property of the university was mortgaged; the panic of 1857, with its attending misfortunes, made it impossible to continue the work on the building and it stood unused for ten years. In 1867, a board, appointed for that purpose, succeeded in clearing up the debts contracted by the former board of regents; the building was completed and classes were again opened at the University. Thirty-one boys and girls were enrolled the first term.

The story of the University since that time has been one of continual advance.

In 1884, Cyrus Northrup accepted its presidency. It is doubtful if any man of Minnesota is known with greater love and esteem than is Dr. Northrup. For twenty-seven years, he was leader of this, its greatest institution. There is no section of the state where his influence is not felt through the work of men and women whom his counsel has directed. Largely through his efforts, the University holds its eminent place in the confidence of the people of the state.

When Dr. Northrop became its president its enrollment was 310; when he retired in 1911, it had reached 3,960.

Dr. Northrop has been ably followed by Dr. George Vincent. Under his administration the registration at the University has continued to increase until in 1915-16, it numbered over five thousand, eight hundred of whom were

enrolled in the freshman class; while through the remarkable growth of its Extension Department the University has become a vital factor in the life of the most remote village of Minnesota.

In 1915, the Mayo brothers of Rochester subscribed two million dollars for the establishment of the Mayo Surgical Foundation merged with the State University, and during the year of 1915-1916, fifty-nine medical students took the post graduate work which it provided.

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Rochester is the site of St. Mary's Hospital and the Mayo Clinic with its world wide reputation. This town was settled in 1854 and incorporated in 1858. It lies in a broad valley in the center of a most fertile agricultural region, and until the building of its famous hospital, was a typical country town. It has now many miles of paving, large and beautiful hotels, and a transient population of about three thousand.

In August, 1883, when Rochester numbered about five thousand people, a terrific cyclone swept through the valley. Much of the town was destroyed; twenty people were killed and many more were injured. The Academy of Lourdes, maintained by the Sisters of St. Francis in the western part of the city, was little disturbed. The Sisters opened their doors to the injured who were in need of shelter and Dr. William W. Mayo attended them.

There was then no hospital in Rochester and this calamity made its need so apparent that a plan was soon formulated by which the Sisters of St. Francis built a hospital and Dr. Mayo became its attending physician. Such was the beginning of St. Mary's Hospital.

In time, Dr. Mayo gave over his practice to his two sons, Dr. William J., graduate of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Dr. Charles, a graduate of the Northwestern University of Illinois, familiarly known as "Dr. Will" and "Dr. Charlie."

These men are blessed with great genius but a genius founded on hard work, constant study, and most careful at-

tention to the minutest details of their profession.

They have surrounded themselves with a staff of physicians each an expert in his particular line of science; while their offices and hospital are remarkable in their perfect equipment.

## **STATE AGRI- CULTURAL COLLEGE**

The act of 1851, which created the state university, provided that one of its departments should be a college of agriculture. Such a college was established in Glencoe in 1858, but, in 1868, the legislature passed an act uniting it to the university. The control of the large national land grant of 1862 for the advancement of agricultural education in the state, was placed at the same time under the control of the Board of Regents of the University. These regents purchased one hundred twenty acres near the university for an experimental farm. The location proved to be unfavorable and, in 1882, they sold, and purchased instead, three hundred fifty acres in Ramsey County, the present site of the Agricultural College.

For many years, the mission of this college was not appreciated throughout the state, but during the years of 1915-1916, it enrolled seven hundred thirty-two students, and graduated ninety-eight.

In 1888, D. L. Kiehle, then Superintendent of Public Instruction, submitted to the board of regents, a plan for a "school of agriculture" which should admit students having only a common school education and which should present in a practical manner, subjects relating to farming. The plan was adopted and became very successful. The enrollment of this school during 1916 was about seven hundred, with one hundred fifty graduates.

The agricultural school and college have performed already a great work in the state, a few examples of which have been noted.

## **CONSOLIDATION OF RURAL SCHOOLS**

Many improvements in our public school system are in the process of making. One of the most important of these is the plan of consolidation of schools in neighboring rural districts. This plan makes possible larger buildings, better equipment, better teachers, a broader course of instruction, often the possibility of a high school course without leaving the farm for the city.

The northern part of the state has adopted this improvement more rapidly than has the southern section. Clay, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca are leading in the work. The organization of this system is more readily accomplished in these counties from the fact that they are originally divided into very large districts. One district in Koochiching county embraces eighty townships while one in Itasca county has sixty-two townships and sixty schools.

In some communities, the school has become a social center where meet the boys' agricultural clubs, the farmers clubs, and other organizations.

## **HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS**

The general tendency toward practical education is shown in the revised curriculum of most of our high schools which now offer the student courses in practical agriculture, domestic art, manual training, and normal training.

The last, established in recent years, offers a course in training for rural teachers and is supplemented by actual teaching experience in neighboring rural districts.

High schools may now also, under certain requirements, include in their course two years of college work which will be credited by the University.

## **SPECIAL STATE SCHOOLS**

Besides the public school, Minnesota cares for many children in her special state schools. The school for neglected children located in Owatonna was one of the first institutions of

its kind in the United States. Its work is inestimable in caring for children who, for some reasons, have no natural guardians, providing homes for them among worthy applicants, and furnishing them training for good citizenship.

The state schools for defective children are located at Faribault. Here are received the blind, the deaf, or the mentally deficient and they receive the best education, that modern science can supply.

These are only a few of the many changes which seventy years have made in our school system. In no other field is the growth of the state more apparent. Let us compare the school of Miss Bishop in the mud-chinked log cabin with its stick chimney and its forty pupils, "most of whom wore blankets," with our modern high school, and try to imagine the *school to be* in seventy years more. Can we hope for too much?

## CHAPTER XVII

# OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS

**STATE'S PRISON** The first prison of the state, built at Stillwater in 1851 was a frame building surrounded by a high wooden fence with occasional platforms for armed guards. This had been rebuilt and made large enough to serve the state until 1913 when the new prison was ready for occupancy.

This brick and concrete structure, situated about two and a half miles south of the old prison, and overlooking the St. Croix River, is a model in prison architecture. Its cell rooms are large, well lighted and ventilated. It has an abundant supply of good spring water and a sanitary drainage system. The prison enclosure of twenty-two acres is joined by a 471 acre prison farm.

The labor at the prison is now performed under the "piece price" system through which a fixed price is paid for articles manufactured, and the prisoner receives a certain sum according to the value of his services, the amount being decided upon by the State Board of Control, and the Prison Warden. The total sum paid prisoners amounts to about six thousand dollars per month.

Inmates are employed in the kitchen, dining room, tailor shop, state repair shop, park, warehouse, laundry, cell houses, and greenhouse; as well as in the twine factory and machine shop.

The twine factory having a capacity of twenty million

pounds a year, employs two hundred fifty prisoners and furnishes twine to the farmers of the state at a lower price than outside makers. A large warehouse for storing raw material and the finished binding twine is within the enclosure while railroad tracks cross the entire prison ground. The prisoners now make such farm machinery as rakes, mowers, harvesters and binders. This system of labor makes the prison self-supporting.

The moral and educational interests of the prisoners have been well provided for, in its popular night school, branch of the Chautauqua Society, and splendid library of seven thousand volumes supplemented by all the best magazines. Although not compulsory, the religious services held each Sunday, are well attended. The *Prison Mirror* which was established in 1887, is edited weekly by the inmates. They also maintain a creditable band and orchestra.

The indeterminate sentence and the grade and merit system of discipline aim to reform the state charges and confine them until they cease to be a menace to public safety. Good conduct raises the standing of the prisoner, secures for him certain privileges and serves to diminish his sentence.

### **BOYS' STATE TRAINING SCHOOL**

The Boys' Training School was established in 1866 as a House of Refuge in St. Paul, and was intended as a place of training for minor boys and girls who were incorrigible or of vicious habits.

Later, four hundred fifty acres of land were purchased two miles east of Red Wing where the boys are cared for and are given not only a common school education, but also, training in some industrial line as carpentry, tailoring, printing or shoemaking. Plenty of out door work which is considered an aid to moral development is provided by the gardens, the farm, and military drill.



**GIRLS' HOME** Sauk Center is the location of a similar home for girls. They are taught here the domestic and household arts, and gardening.

Cottages, accommodating from fifty to seventy-five girls, are under care of matron, a housekeeper, and a teacher.

**STATE REFORMATORY** This correctional institution which is located at St. Cloud was organized in 1887 to receive offenders from sixteen to thirty years of age, who have participated in minor crimes.

Such inmates as are not Federal prisoners or transferred from the Red Wing Training School, are accepted under the indeterminate plan, and may be paroled when their conduct warrants, or for sufficient cause may be sent to the prison at Stillwater.

This property includes a large syenite quarry where the prisoners help to obtain and prepare building stone. All practical trades are taught as well as extensive farming and gardening. Unless excused for sickness, six days of labor are required from each inmate, so that upon his release he will be fitted to fill some useful place, and gain a livelihood.

**INSANE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS** Minnesota has three hospitals for the insane at Fergus Falls, Rochester, and St. Peter and two insane asylums at Anoka and Hastings. Patients are received at the hospitals and treated until the Superintendent can certify to their condition. The incurable are then placed in asylums.

These institutions have good buildings, surrounded by grounds which are models of landscape gardening. Each has in connection a large farm which supplies it with vegetables and dairy products, and gives the patients employment.

The State spent \$915,583, caring for its 6,895 insane during the year 1914.

## **SOLDIERS' HOME**

In 1887, a home was established on Minnehaha Creek for the soldiers and sailors in the Civil and Mexican Wars who were now too old or feeble to be self supporting. For two years, they occupied temporary quarters, but in 1889, new buildings were ready for occupancy. These comprised, besides its administration building, a woman's building, laundry, dining hall and a hospital.

The home is in charge of a board of trustees who are appointed by the governor. Veterans of the Spanish American War, and the wives, widows and mothers of the members of the Home are also received and supported.

It is maintained by a fund from the state treasury and an allowance from the Federal Government of one hundred dollars for each male member who has not served in Indian Wars.

## **MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL**

When Minnesota was organized as a territory, June 1, 1849, the twenty thousand dollars appropriated for its capitol building could not be used until its permanent seat of government had been located.

The first legislature met in an old log tavern called "The Central House" which stood in the rear of the block now occupied by the Mannheimer Store. Here each chamber had a hall not over sixteen or eighteen feet square. The remainder of the building was a hotel. As neither legislative room was large enough to hold a joint session, Governor Ramsey delivered his message in the dining room. The governor's private office was kept at his residence while the supreme court, having no fixed place of meeting, was compelled to use whatever was available.

During the second session of the legislature, St. Paul was decided upon as the capitol city and Chas. Bazille, a pioneer land-owner, donated the state Capitol Square in the heart of the present city. A state house costing \$40,000 was completed in 1853, and served until March 1, 1881, when

it was destroyed by fire, entailing a heavy loss to the State; although its most valuable papers and records with the Historical Society's library were saved. The legislature which was then in session, was forced to finish its meetings in the new market house, which was just completed. The capitol was rebuilt at a cost of \$275,000, and was used until the business so far exceeded its capacity that Governor Nelson was forced to appoint a board of State Capitol Commissioners to attend to a new capitol enterprise.

A large plat of land at the corner of Wabasha and Central Avenues was selected as a site for the imposing structure erected as a suitable home for the offices of a rich and prosperous state.

The building which was designed by Cass Gilbert, a Minnesota architect, comprises a main edifice, two wings and a large central dome. It is made of Georgia marble, and its interior halls are faced with highly polished Minnesota limestone whose beautiful colors rival those in the occasional panels of foreign marbles from Greece, Italy and France. Mural paintings by American artists adorn the walls, and tell their stories of the state's progress.

The corner stone of the capitol was laid by Alexander Ramsey, July 27, 1898, and Cushman K. Davis delivered a most eloquent address. The building, which was completed at a cost of four and a half million dollars was first occupied by the legislature of 1905.

**BOARD OF CONTROL** In 1901, the Legislature created a Board of Control of State Institutions. At first the State University and Normal schools were included under its management but the plan was unsatisfactory and these were placed under separate supervision.

**BOARD OF VISITORS** To assure the state that its charitable and correctional institutions are judiciously managed and inmates properly treated, the legislature of 1907 organized a state board of visitors. It

is the duty of this board to visit these institutions and by the order of the Governor to investigate and report upon conditions.

## SPANISH AMERICAN WAR AND INDIAN AFFAIRS

### **DECLARATION OF WAR**

In 1898, the call for volunteers for the army again aroused the United States. This time, the call was not to quell insurrection but to aid a weaker nation in her long struggle for freedom from oppression.

The sympathies of the people had been with Cuba during the whole course of her rebellion against Spain and they welcomed the proclamation of President McKinley that "in the name of Humanity, in the name of Civilization, in behalf of American interests in Cuba, war in Cuba must stop."

War was formally declared against Spain by Congress, April 25, 1898, and the call for troops was immediately issued.

### **ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA REGIMENTS**

As in the Civil War, Minnesota was proud to be the first state to respond to the call and three regiments for the Spanish war were mustered in at Fort Snelling, April 29, 1898. These three regiments were known as the Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Minnesota Volunteers.

Only the thirteenth was called into active foreign service. This regiment under Col. McReeve of Minneapolis, sailed from San Francisco for Manilla, July 5. They served with credit and distinction in the Philippines for a year. They were mustered out in San Francisco, October 12, 1899.

### **PEACE**

When Spain sued for peace, a commission was appointed by President McKinley to negotiate a

treaty. Senator Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota was a member of this commission.

**BATTLE OF LEECH LAKE** During the fall of 1898, the Indians of Leech Lake resisted an attempt of the United States marshal to arrest several wrong doers among them.

About twenty men from Fort Snelling accompanied the marshal in a second attempt to carry out the authority of the government and these were surrounded by Indians and attacked. Six were killed and nine were wounded.

Fearing a general Indian uprising, the settlers of the vicinity asked for protection and the government sent several companies of the fourteenth regiment to quiet their fears. The matter was however adjusted between the Indian agent and the Chippewas without further trouble.

**INDIAN RESERVATIONS** The Indians, once so numerous in Minnesota, are now reduced to about 11,532, most of whom belong to the Chippewa tribe. The Indian lands comprise about one and one-half million acres included in the reservations at Red Lake, Leech Lake, Pigeon Point, Lake Vermillion and White Earth. Here are churches and schools. Many of the Indians of the state, having acquired a good education, are engaged in farming and other industrial pursuits.

## CHAPTER XIX

# RECENT LEGISLATION

**COUNTY OPTION** One of the legislative reforms of 1914-'15 was the bill providing for County Option. By this bill, the question of whether the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited in a county may be submitted to the people by special election vote whenever a petition signed by a number of voters equal to at least twenty-five per cent of all votes cast in the county for governor at the last general election, shall be presented to the County Auditor. This special election shall take place, not less than thirty nor more than forty days after any spring, general, or regular, town and village election.

After a county has voted on this question, no other election under the act can be ordered for a period of three years.

If a majority of the votes cast be for prohibition, then the operation of all laws authorizing the granting of licenses for sale of intoxicating liquors shall be suspended.

**TEACHERS' PENSION** The Teachers' Pension bill passed by the legislature of 1914-15 establishes an insurance and retirement fund for teachers who have served not less than twenty years, fifteen of which, including the last five immediately before retirement, must have been in Minnesota.

It is compulsory for all teachers to become members of



the association and its funds are obtained by an assessment of members, donations and legacies, and by a tax of one twentieth mill on all property of the state outside of the cities of the first class.

This bill is applicable to all teachers of the state except those of the cities of the first class.

**MOTHERS' PENSIONS** In 1913, this state passed a law which provides that a mother who is unable to support her children under fourteen years of age may receive a pension from the county, not to exceed ten dollars a month. This matter under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, prevents children of widows or those whose fathers are physically disabled or serving criminal sentence, from suffering neglect or poverty.

**CHILD LABOR** Under the laws of the state, education is compulsory for children under sixteen years of age and the employment of children in factories and industrial lines is closely inspected and every effort is made to give minors their right to fit themselves for life.

**LABOR PROTECTION** For the benefit of the employed, state legislation limits the number of working hours in a day, regulates the fire protection and sanitary conditions of places of employment. Employers are not allowed to use defective machinery and are compelled to comply with the law requiring all dangerous machinery to be properly covered or guarded.

**STATE FLAG** April 4, 1893, the legislature passed an act which provided that a committee of six ladies be appointed to select a flag for our state. This committee after considering different patterns submitted, adopted one prepared by Mrs. Edw. H. Centre of Minneapolis.

This design conforms to the provision of the act of the legislature which advised that, "There shall be a white



ground with reverse side of blue. The centre of the white ground shall be occupied by a design substantially embodying the form of the seal employed as the state seal of Minnesota at the time of its admission into the Union. The said design of the state seal shall be surrounded by appropriate representations of the moccasin flower, ..... , and appropriately arranged on the said white ground shall be nineteen stars, emblematic of the fact that Minnesota was the nineteenth state to be admitted into the Union after its formation by the thirteen original states. There shall also appear at the bottom of the flag, in the white ground, so as to be plainly visible, the word "Minnesota." This original flag, embroidered in silk, with its staff surmounted by the gopher typifying "the Gopher State," and tied with a golden cord and tassel, may be seen at the State Capitol.

**STATE FLOWER** In 1893, the Women's Auxiliary to the World's Fair urged the adoption of a floral emblem for our state, which could be used for decorative purposes. The Wild Lady Slipper or Moccasin Flower which is of peculiar shape and a variety of beautiful colors, was selected. The yellow, and the pink and white variety are most common in Minnesota. It is sometimes called Indian Shoe from the shape of its blossom.

**CONCLUSION** Sixty years has seen in Minnesota a marvelous transformation from a wilderness inhabited by roaming bands of savages to a prosperous commonwealth which in scenic beauty, natural resources, and commercial advantages is unrivalled.

Fortunate is the boy or girl whose youth is spent in an environment where Nature has been so benevolent and where She has afforded such liberal opportunities for mental, physical and moral growth—

Hail to Minnesota!

## State Governors of Minnesota

---

Henry H. Sibley .....	May 24, 1858-Jan. 2, 1860
Alexander Ramsey .....	Jan. 2, 1860-July 10, 1863
Henry A. Swift .....	July 10, 1863-Jan. 11, 1864
Stephen Miller .....	Jan. 11, 1864-Jan. 8, 1866
Wm. R. Marshall .....	Jan. 8, 1866-Jan. 9, 1870
Horace Austin .....	Jan. 9, 1870-Jan. 7, 1874
Cushman K. Davis .....	Jan. 7, 1874-Jan. 7, 1876
John I. Pillsbury .....	Jan. 7, 1876-Jan. 10, 1882
Lucius F. Hubbard .....	Jan. 10, 1882-Jan. 5, 1887
Wm. R. Merriam .....	Jan. 9, 1889-Jan. 4, 1893
Knute Nelson .....	Jan. 4, 1893-Jan. 31, 1895
David M. Clough .....	Jan. 31, 1895-Jan. 2, 1899
John Lind .....	Jan. 2, 1899-Jan. 7, 1901
Samuel R. Van Sant .....	Jan. 7, 1901-Jan. 4, 1905
John A. Johnson .....	Jan. 4, 1905-Sept. 20, 1909
Adolph O. Eberhart .....	Sept. 21, 1909-Jan. 4, 1915
Winfield Scott Hammond .....	Jan. 4, 1915-Dec. 30, 1915
J. A. A. Burnquist .....	Dec. 30, 1915-

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